

Automotive Repair AND Smog Check News

Spring 2012

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New Chief appointed to Bureau of Automotive Repair



Chief John Wallauch

John Wallauch, the new Chief of BAR, may be best known for his innovative contributions to emissions testing. A true visionary, he has his sights set on moving BAR into a position of leadership in consumer protection and air quality improvement.

After attending California State University, Chico and Compton College, Mr. Wallauch spent 12 years working on NASA's Saturn rocket program for the Apollo space missions.

Mr. Wallauch's career with BAR began in 1972 as an automotive engineer, designing infrared analyzers for auto repair shops. He ventured outside of public service in 1985 to work as vice president of engineering and operations at Envirotest. Through his leadership and innovation, Envirotest became the country's largest inspection and maintenance (Smog Check) provider. Alongside his efforts on the Apollo aerospace program, Envirotest's emergence as an industry leader is considered to be one of Mr. Wallauch's greatest accomplishments.

Returning to public service in 1997, Mr. Wallauch pioneered the Air Resources Board's (ARB) early vehicle retirement program before deciding to explore a different passion — traveling. In 2008, Wallauch returned to ARB to design an implementation program to correct Smog Check deficiencies.

Five years later as BAR's new Chief, he is raising new questions, envisioning new possibilities, and regarding old problems from new angles when it comes to protecting California's consumers and the air we breathe. "I am enthused with the opportunity to come back to the Bureau," said Wallauch. "It's my home." **BAR**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS



Bureau of Automotive Repair

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Draft of new Smog Check Manual is available online for review

Assembly Bill 2289 (Chapter 258, Statutes of 2010) requires onboard diagnostic (OBD) testing instead of tailpipe testing on most 2000 and newer model-year vehicles. BAR has revised its regulations, inspection equipment specifications, and the Smog Check Manual to implement these changes. BAR anticipates the regulations to be adopted by early 2013 and implemented in summer or fall of 2013 in conjunction with new equipment rollout and the new Smog Check Manual. At that point, most 2000 and newer model year vehicles will only require an OBD II test and a visual inspection of emission control devices.

A draft of the new Smog Check Manual is now available for review on the BAR Web site at www.bar.ca.gov/80_BARResources/05_Legislative/RegulatoryActions/Draft%20Smog%20Check%20Manual%202013.pdf. It contains the updated inspection procedures and a new table, which lists the inspection equipment required for each station type. Stations participating in the STAR program will need to purchase the new OBD Inspection System (OIS). Stations not participating in the STAR program only need the equipment necessary to inspect vehicles for testing and/or repairs. For example, a Test-Only or Test-and-Repair Station could purchase only the OIS and inspect only 2000 and newer model year vehicles.

The OIS has one BAR-certified component called the Data Acquisition Device (DAD). The rest of the equipment, called ancillary equipment, is not BAR-certified and may be purchased from any vendor as long as it meets minimum requirements for the operating system and Internet browser software. The DAD reads the vehicle information, then passes it through the computer to BAR's Web page. The inspection software will reside on BAR's Vehicle Information Database and a continuous Internet connection will be required to perform an inspection. As details are worked out, additional information on equipment costs, required purchase dates, and vendor information will follow.

For more information on the procedures and equipment found in the draft Smog Check Manual, the enacted legislation, and draft regulations, visit www.bar.ca.gov/80_BARResources/05_Legislative/RegulatoryActions/NewEquipandInspProcedures.htm. Under the "Information," tab you will find the Draft Smog Check Manual 2013 and the Draft Regulations. Under the "Workshops" tab, you will find a PowerPoint presentation on Smog Check inspections, procedures, and equipment, and a list of workshops held throughout California to gain feedback on the regulations before they are finalized. **B:R**

Exam handbook ready soon

BAR has developed a handbook to help you prepare for the new Smog Check Inspector and the Repair Technician examinations. You will be given a copy of the handbook when you apply for the new license. It will also be available on the Smog Check Web site this summer.

The handbook will help you determine the training and skills you need to pass the Inspector and Repair Technician exams, and will give you an idea of what you may experience when taking the exams. The handbook will also have information about the examinations, recommendations for studying, and sample questions.

BAR recommends that you read the handbook carefully, well in advance of the examination. The handbook is only a study guide; it will not contain all the knowledge you need to pass the exam. **B:R**

New exams for Inspectors and Repair Technicians will be ready soon

BAR has developed separate licensing exams for the new Smog Check Inspector and the Smog Check Repair Technician licenses. Both exams will be available starting in August 2012.

The application for Inspector and the Repair Technician licenses will be available on the BAR Web site www.bar.ca.gov. Call BAR's Licensing Unit at (916) 255-3145 to have an application mailed to you. The two examinations will be given separately, but applicants who want to take both can request back-to-back sessions.

The new exams apply to new applicants only. Current holders of Emissions Basic (EB) or Emissions Advanced (EA) licenses will be asked to select one or both of the new license options when they renew their licenses. **B:R**

BAR renews ties with educators

BAR renewed its relationship with the automotive education community by meeting with Bob Barkhouse, Executive Director of the California Automotive Teachers (CAT). In addition to his statewide position with CAT, Barkhouse also serves on the California Industrial Technology Board and the Automotive Business Coalition. He recently became a member of the Educational Advisory Group, chaired by Rocky Carlisle, Smog Check engineer.

Barkhouse was instrumental in developing the legislative intent for Assembly Bill 2289, including language that BAR will work with the California community colleges and other training institutes to help develop innovative training programs for motor vehicle technicians. As a result of his influence, BAR will work with the California community colleges and other training institutes to help develop innovative training programs for motor vehicle technicians.

“Today’s meeting was fruitful because it established a solid relationship with BAR that will integrate new concepts, further develop Smog Check curriculum, and link the efforts of the



From left: Ed VanMil, Smog Check Senior Engineer; Bob Barkhouse, Executive Director of CAT; John Wallauch, Chief of BAR; and Rocky Carlisle, Smog Check Engineer and Chair of the Educational Advisory Group.

educational community with BAR’s regulatory mandate,” said Barkhouse. In addition to promoting automotive education, Barkhouse will also share his knowledge and expertise with BAR as a subject matter expert. **B!R**

Overselling Maintenance Services

Recently, BAR Chief Wallauch discussed the issue of some auto repair facilities’ tendency in these economic times to oversell maintenance services such as radiator and transmission flushes and oil changes at 3,000 miles, rather than following the car manufacturer’s recommendations.

Misrepresenting the manufacturer’s recommendation could be a violation of the law, including California’s Business and Professions Code section 9884.7(a)(1,8) and California Code of Regulations sections 3371 and 3372. Advances in engine design and the use of synthetic oils or oil blends make changing the oil every 3,000 miles an unnecessary practice. Facilities that recommend more frequent oil changes or other services could face disciplinary action.

The Bureau advises Auto Repair Dealers to ensure that all of their staff members communicate only the manufacturer’s recommendations to consumers. Consumers should consult their owner’s manual to verify when their vehicle needs service. **B!R**

How licensing exams are developed

BAR’s new licensing exams were developed through an occupational analysis which identified the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for competence in automotive repairs and Smog Check inspections.

From the occupational analysis, a blueprint for the exam was developed and tested to ensure accuracy. After that, questions that tested the knowledge, skills, and abilities were written by groups of technicians. The questions were reviewed, edited, and weighted in terms of their value.

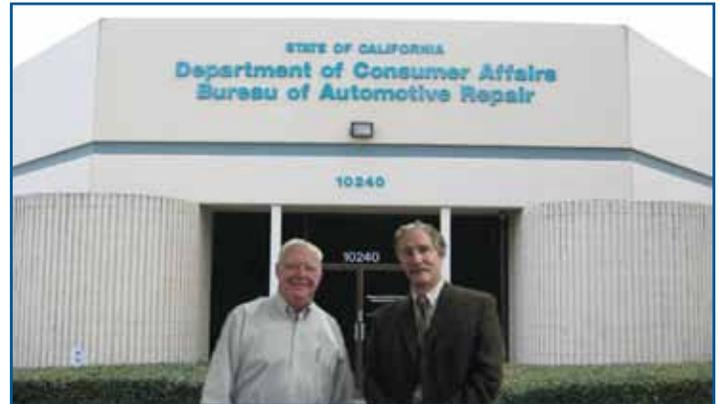
The passing score was determined by another group of technicians that evaluated the difficulty of the questions. The exam was tested on a sample size of the exam population to eliminate questions that may be too difficult or too easy. A question that is too difficult suggests that the item is outside the scope of the profession, and a question that is too easy suggests that the item is readily known by the entire exam population. The pass rate will be tracked each time the exam is administered to compare the results. **B!R**

Study analyzes cost-effectiveness of BAR's Consumer Assistance Program

Jeffrey Williams, University of California, Davis professor and former member of the Inspection and Maintenance Review Committee, met with BAR Chief Wallauch and BAR engineers to present his analysis of cost-effective options for BAR's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP). CAP is a program established by the Legislature to help low-income consumers pay for emissions-related repairs on vehicles that failed Smog Check inspections.

Dr. Williams' presentation covered the most common types of CAP-funded repairs beginning with vehicle emission's system diagnostic testing, replacement of oxygen sensors, and replacement of catalytic converters occurring in 99.9 percent, 29 percent, and 28 percent of vehicles respectively. Dr. Williams' team tracked a 1993 Geo Prizm through the CAP Repair Assistance process and the post-repair Smog Check Inspection, resulting in that vehicle initially passing then failing, aborting, and finally passing again. Dr. Williams compared Department of Motor Vehicles' registration renewal dates to CAP repairs, Smog Check Inspection failure rates after CAP repairs, and vehicle retirement after CAP Repairs.

Dr. Williams' research determined that the average consumer waits 60 days after the CAP application is approved before having repairs done. Driving during that waiting period adds approximately 600 miles of gross-polluting activity.



John Wallauch, BAR Chief, left, and Jeffrey Williams, UC Davis professor.

In his study, Dr. Williams addressed several critical questions, including:

- » Should BAR spend CAP money to repair vehicles and then again to retire the same vehicles?
- » How can BAR encourage consumers to retire vehicles that are 15 years of age or older or have more than 155,000 miles on them?
- » What can be done to lessen the effects of more than 300,000 polluting vehicles on California's highways?

BAR looks forward to receiving the completed study and will report Dr. Williams' findings in an upcoming edition of *Automotive Repair and Smog Check News*. **B!R**

Checklist helps stations pass inspection

BAR has developed a checklist to help station owners become licensed as a Test-Only, Test-and-Repair, Repair-Only, or as an Official Lamp or Brake station. After submitting the completed application to BAR's Licensing Unit, station owners are encouraged to begin preparing for the required initial station inspection. Once the Licensing Unit processes the application, a BAR representative from a local field office will call the station to schedule an inspection appointment. It's a good idea to ask the representative any questions and to review the station requirements before the appointment.

According to Jaime Ramos, Supervisor of the Sacramento Field Office, having an itemized checklist of the licenses, signs, and station requirements is helpful for station owners to get ready for an inspection, or if they need to make a few more purchases.

Station owners should be familiar with the operation of the equipment and should test it to ensure it is serviceable

and properly calibrated. BAR recommends allowing at least two hours for the initial inspection and having at least one technician or installer/adjuster present during the inspection.

The checklist is only a guide. Station owners, technicians, and installers/adjusters are responsible for knowing the station licensing requirements. The applicable sections of the California Code of Regulations for each license type are listed at the bottom of the checklist. Station owners who have questions about responsibilities and requirements should consult the specific regulations.

Passing the initial inspection the first time eliminates the need for a second or third follow-up visit and avoids the travel, time, and expense for both the station and BAR personnel.

For copies of the station license application and the checklist, visit the BAR Web site at www.bar.ca.gov. Click on the "Industry" tab, then "Licensing." **B!R**

Disciplinary actions - Northern California

October 2011

Al's Mobile Mechanics, Sacramento

Alfred S. Quattrin, Owner

Order: ARD is revoked. Pay BAR \$6,087 for the cost of investigation and enforcement when applying for a new or reinstated registration and/or license from BAR. (10/10/11)

Andrews Auto Center, Fresno

Andrew Garza, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (10/10/11)

Hardtailz Customs, San Jose

Ron Lee Williams, President/Secretary

Chris Owen Vanghan, Vice President/Treasurer

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (10/4/11)

Lozanos, Fresno

Gonzalo Lozano, Partner

Roberto Raul Lozano, Partner

Order: ARD is revoked. (10/10/11)

SF AAMCO Transmission, San Francisco

Stanley Wo, Owner

Order: ARD is revoked. Pay BAR \$58,151 for the cost of investigation and enforcement when applying for a new or reinstated license. (10/10/11)

Sierra Motors, (Jamestown Motor Corp), Jamestown

John Alexander, President

Order: ARD and Smog Check Station licenses are revoked, stayed, suspended for three days and placed on probation for three years. Auto body repair facility and any and all activity or actions related to auto body repair shall remain suspended for 28 days. Pay BAR \$26,000 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (10/4/11)

November 2011

AAMCO Transmissions, Clovis

Frankie Ray Rose, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (11/10/11)

December 2011

Foreign Auto Care, North Highlands

Anatoliy Butkevich, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked, stayed, suspended for 30 days and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$10,936 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (12/21/11)

Los Amigos Auto, Gridley

Efrain P. Haro, Owner

Order: ARD and Smog Check Station licenses are revoked, stayed, suspended for 15 days and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$3,179 for the cost of investigation and prosecution. (12/9/11)

Order: Brake Station license and Lamp Station are revoked. (12/9/11)

Efrain P. Haro, Gridley

Technician

Order: Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license is revoked, stayed, suspended for 15 days and placed on probation for three years. (12/9/11)

Brake Adjuster and Lamp Adjuster

Order: Brake Adjuster and Lamp Adjuster licenses are revoked. (12/9/11)

January 2012

AAMCO Transmissions (Schuette Enterprises Inc.), Sacramento

David Alan Schuette, President

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (1/30/12)

Blackstone Tire & Service (Lawrence & Petty Inc.),

Fresno

Rick L. Petty, President

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (1/24/12)

Gold River Auto Repair, Rancho Cordova

Ralph T. Haskell, Owner

Order: ARD Registration and Smog Check Station licenses are revoked, stayed, and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$5,000 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (1/24/12)

February 2012

Center Minute Lube, Patterson

Joel Garcia, Partner

Sigisfredo Alaniz, Partner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (2/6/12)

Midas Shop (Quiet Ride Inc.), Arroyo Grande

Carol Buckland, President

Order: ARD Registration is revoked, stayed, suspended for five days and placed on probation for four years. Pay BAR \$40,000 for the cost of investigation and prosecution. (2/6/12)

Disciplinary actions - Northern California *(continued)*

February 2012 *(continued)*

Midas Shop (Quiet Ride Inc.), Santa Maria

Midas Shop (Quiet Ride Inc.), San Luis Obispo

Carol Buckland, President

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (2/6/12)

TJ & Sons Custom Auto, Fresno

Jessy H. Barger, Partner; John T. Barger, Partner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (2/22/12)

Zoom Smog & Automotive, Valley Springs

Zoom Smog & Automotive, Sutter Creek

Robert Bruce Clark, Owner

Order: ARD Registration and Smog Check Station licenses are revoked, stayed, suspended for five days and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$5,000 for the cost of investigation and prosecution. (2/27/12)

Order: Brake and Lamp Station licenses are revoked. (2/27/12)

Robert Bruce Clark, Sutter Creek

Technician

Order: Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license is revoked, stayed, suspended for five days and placed on probation for three years. (2/27/12)

Brake and Lamp Adjuster

Order: Brake Adjuster license and Lamp Adjuster license are revoked. (2/27/12)

James Estes, Pine Grove

Technician

Order: Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license is revoked, stayed, suspended for five days and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$5,000 for the cost of investigation and prosecution. (2/27/12)

Brake and Lamp Adjuster

Order: Brake Adjuster license and Lamp Adjuster license are revoked. (2/27/12)

March 2012

Perfection Auto Parts & Repair, Elk Grove

Shaun Woodward, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (3/28/12)

April 2012

AAMCO Transmission (Eco Autotech Inc), Stockton

Charles Kuang Hsiao, President

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. Pay BAR \$19,462.21 for the cost of investigation and enforcement if and when license from BAR is reinstated. (4/3/12)

Bennett Valley 76, Santa Rosa

Murillo Miguel (a.k.a. Miguel Murillo-Lua), Owner

Order: ARD and Smog Check Station licenses are revoked, stayed, and placed on probation for one year. (4/27/12)

Custom Autotech Performance Muffler, Clovis

James Mathew Lieder, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (4/27/12)

Deans Body Shop, Oakhurst

Lori Ann Lagow, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (4/3/12)

Mobile Tech Automotive Repair, Sacramento

Bryan Lamar Williams, Partner; Pilar Lucille Sober, Partner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked, stayed, and placed on probation for two (2) years. (4/9/12)

P & I Auto Body & Repair, Oakland

Philip Byungchan Lee, Partner; In Sik Yi, Partner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (4/20/12)

Premier RV Collision, Kingsburg

Nicholas S. Flores, Partner; Jamie B. Flores, Partner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (4/3/12)

Disciplinary actions - Southern California

October 2011

European Auto Body, North Hollywood

Vartan Kouyoumjian, Owner

Order: ARD is revoked, stayed, suspended for 30 days and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$12,900 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (10/4/11)

Express Auto Body, Los Angeles

Alexander Patlis, Owner

Order: ARD is revoked. Pay BAR \$20,984 for cost of investigation and enforcement at the time of the filing of an application for a new or reinstated license or registration. (10/4/11)

Disciplinary actions - Southern California *(continued)*

October 2011 *(continued)*

Purrfect Auto Service #3, Pomona

Muhammad Ullah, Owner

Order: ARD and Smog Check Test Only Station licenses are revoked. (10/4/11)

Vital Carr, Chula Vista

Felipe Gamboa Castillo, Owner

Order: ARD is revoked, stayed, suspended for 15 days and placed on probation for five years. Pay BAR \$25,000 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (10/17/11)

November 2011

California Transmission Rebuilders, Torrance

Jose Gilbert Gomez, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked, stayed, and placed on probation for two years. Pay BAR \$897 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (11/08/11)

December 2011

Victory Test Only Smog Center, Burbank

Armik Bekter, Owner

Order: ARD Registration and Smog Check Station license are revoked. Pay BAR \$16,484 for the cost of investigation and prosecution. (12/8/11)

Armik Bekter, Burbank

Technician

Order: Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license is revoked. (12/8/11)

January 2012

Budget Auto Repair, Moreno Valley

April Joy Baladad, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (1/24/12)

Mr. Auto, Compton

Reza Fathi, Owner

Order: ARD Registration and Smog Check Station licenses are revoked, stayed, suspended for 15 days and placed on probation for five years. Pay BAR \$15,954 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (1/3/12)

Order: Official Lamp Station license and Official Brake Station license are revoked. (1/3/12)

Reza Fathi, Compton

Technician

Order: Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license is revoked, stayed, suspended for 15 days and placed on probation for five years. (1/3/12)

Order: Brake Adjuster and Lamp Adjuster licenses are revoked. (1/3/12)

March 2012

Sterling Car Care Auto Center, (S.H.F. Inc.), San Bernardino

Ahmad Radwan Bakar, President

Ann L. Bakar, Treasurer

Hassan S. Bakar, Secretary

Order: ARD Registration and Smog Check Station license is revoked, stayed, and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$15,000 for the cost of investigation and enforcement when applying for any new license with BAR. (3/16/12)

Order: Official Lamp Station and Official Brake Station licenses are revoked. (3/16/12)

Ahmad Radwan Bakar, San Bernardino

Technician

Order: Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license is revoked, stayed and placed on probation for three years. Pay BAR \$15,000 for the cost of investigation and enforcement. (3/16/12)

Brake and Lamp Adjuster

Order: Brake Adjuster and Lamp Adjuster licenses are revoked. (3/16/12)

April 2012

Auto Top Care, Northridge

Afshin Azmoudeh, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked. (4/3/12)

Inland Center Auto Body, San Bernardino

Louie Mendez Avilez, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked, stayed and placed on probation for five (5) years. Pay BAR \$13,918 for cost of investigation and enforcement. (4/20/12)

Sierra Auto Body, Upland

Robert Alvarez Moran, Owner

Order: ARD Registration is revoked, stayed, suspended for ten (10) days and placed on probation for three years Respondent shall pay the Bureau its cost of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$6,126.52 (4/20/12) **B:R**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS



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BAR Executive Staff

John Wallauch, Chief
Doug Balatti, Assistant Chief
Brian Newman, Deputy Chief
Patrick Dorais, Deputy Chief



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New address
10949 North Mather Blvd.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Old address
10240 Systems Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95827

We've moved!
BAR has moved its headquarters to a new location.

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