



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite N-323, Sacramento, CA 95834

P (916) 574-8170 F (916) 574-8612 | www.dca.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Glenn Mason

(916) 574-8168

LOS ANGELES SMOG CHECK STATION'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges fraudulent Smog Checks by Speedy Test Only

LOS ANGELES – The owner of Speedy Test Only, a Smog Check station at 3321 W. Florence Ave in Los Angeles, has had his licenses suspended after investigators with the Bureau of Automotive Repair determined he was cheating the state's Smog Check inspection program.

Investigators with the Bureau found Mohamed Lazrag was "clean piping" vehicles to get them through the Smog Check test. He was also selling fraudulent Smog Check certificates through an internet network.

"Clean piping" is when a vehicle that would not pass a Smog Check on its own, or is not present for testing, is fraudulently certified as passing. To accomplish this, a technician or other individual uses a clean exhaust sample from another vehicle that will pass a Smog Check, but enters the data for the vehicle for which the Smog Check certificate is required.

"These activities are against the law," said Bureau Chief Sherry Mehl. "To make matters even worse, this kind of illegal activity has a negative impact on the quality of the air we breathe. When we find Smog Check station owners and technicians operating illegally, we will take swift action to stop them and shut them down."

Lazrag's Automotive Repair Dealer registration, Smog Check Test Only station license, and Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license were suspended by an

Administrative Law Judge at the request of the Bureau, which will now proceed with its efforts to permanently revoke all of his licenses.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the investigation. The Bureau has also submitted the results of the investigation to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office for possible criminal prosecution.

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The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers who wish to file a complaint against an auto repair facility can contact the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.autorepair.ca.gov.