Department of Consumer Affairs
Bureau of Automotive Repair

Smog Check Program Update

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Engineering & Research Branch
BAR Advisory Group Meeting
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BAR-97 Dialup to IP Rollout

- Regulations adopted on 8/2/2018
- Internet connection software Beta started on 10/13/2017
- First vendor’s software certified on 1/25/2018
- Q&As published
- Multiple ET Blasts sent
- Dialup analyzers locked from performing inspections on 11/1/2018
- Analyzers still VID-connected until late January to support certificate inventory synchronization
- Currently over 4,000 analyzers using Internet connection
OBD Defeat Devices

• BAR ET Blast - April 4, 2018
• BAR is taking aggressive action against stations using OBD defeat devices.
  – BAR conducts statewide inspections targeting use of OBD defeat devices
  – BAR has initiated over 400 admin/criminal cases
  – Working with District Attorneys to secure search warrants and seize devices
  – BAR continues certificate blocking and Referee direction for inspections showing irregular data
OBD Defeat Devices

- Simple simulators are stand-alone devices that mimic a vehicle’s OBD data
- Pass-through devices alter a failing vehicle’s OBD data
- Both allow vehicles that would otherwise fail an inspection to pass instead
Addressing OBD Fraud

- Certificate blocking
- Referee direction
- Administrative actions
- Criminal prosecution
Certificate Blocking Authority

- Health and Safety Code Section 44036(b)(3)(K) authorizes BAR to develop:
  A real-time computer data program that prevents a certificate of compliance from being issued if a vehicle is identified as having an excessive variance from computer data for that vehicle, mismatched information, or other irregularities.
Impact of Certificate Blocking

• 1,557 vehicles directed to the Referee in the last 30 days
• Over 14,000 vehicles directed since January 2018
• About half of the directed vehicles eventually get tested by the Referee
  – Others likely retired, moved out of state, operating unregistered, improperly registered
BAR-OIS Update Plans

• New Data Acquisition Device (DAD)
  – Enhanced data collection ability to better detect fraud where surrogate vehicle or electronic data simulator used
  – Embedded GPS to identify DAD location

• Webcam
  – Prompts user to “video chat” with BAR/Referee when irregularity (potential fraud) detected
BAR-OIS Update Plans

• Biometric Device
  – Finger vein scanner used in addition to password
  – Positively identifies user performing Smog Check inspection
  – Positive user identification necessary for criminal prosecution
  – Enhanced capabilities could help ensure inspectors that actually took an exam are the ones performing the inspection
2017 Specification Update for BAR-97

- BAR testing software updates that will make analyzers fully compliant with 2017 specification
- Software installation in all analyzers planned for March 20, 2019
- Update captures LPFET data through the analyzer
  - After statewide installation, BAR will update LPFET hardware, so phone line is no longer needed.
  - BAR will disable offline testing after 2017 software installed
- ET Blasts on cutover schedule coming soon
Future BAR-97 Update Plans

- Certificate blocking similar to BAR-OIS
  - Fraud detected, BAR prevents issuance of certificate and marks vehicle for Referee inspection
- Biometric Device
  - Finger vein scanner used in addition to password
Permanent Diagnostic Trouble Codes

- BAG presentation and workshop on April 19, 2018
- Planning to incorporate into Smog Check Program in Summer 2019
- BAR working with ARB to ID vehicles with OBD data not meeting SAE specification and to get vehicle computers reflashed to correct errors
- ET Blasts on implementation schedule coming soon
Questions and Comments

Submit additional questions and/or comments to:

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