



# Automotive Repair and Smog Check News

## Licensing Restructure Moves Forward

### **New licenses become effective in 2012**

Over the past two years, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) has been preparing regulations that will give individuals and businesses options when they seek licensure as a Smog Check technician or station. This restructure is also designed to assist stations in hiring and retaining technicians whose skill levels match their business needs. The new license structure should be adopted in 2012.

As part of the regulatory process, BAR conducted 12 public workshops throughout California. These workshops built upon recommendations made by independent consultants, who conducted an occupational analysis of BAR's existing license structure. Ultimately, the input from these workshops helped to shape the final restructure package.

Based on these workshops, BAR proposes to add a Smog Check Repair-Only station license, in addition to the existing Test-Only and Test-and-Repair station licenses, and establish the following Smog Check technician types and qualification requirements:

### **Inspector License**

A candidate seeking an Inspector license will need to meet the minimum requirements related to inspecting vehicles. This will include knowledge of engine and emissions control systems to the extent necessary to perform quality inspections. Inspector candidates will not be required to have experience or training in the area of diagnosis and repair.

### **Inspector License Qualifications**

To obtain an Inspector license, a candidate must:

- Complete engine and emission control training (Level 1) provided by BAR-certified schools. (Required for candidates with minimal or no automotive experience only.)
- Complete BAR's Smog Check inspection training (Level 2) provided by BAR-certified schools.
- Pass the state licensing examination.
- Renew license biennially.

## **Repair Technician License**

The Repair Technician license will require knowledge and experience in diagnosing and repairing vehicles. Currently, there is no experience requirement to become a Smog Check technician.

### **Repair Technician License Qualifications**

To obtain a Repair Technician license, a candidate must:

- Meet any one of the following four qualifications:
  - Possess certification in the categories of Electrical/Electronic Systems (A6), Engine Performance (A8) and Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (L1) from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence; OR
  - Possess an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree or higher in automotive technology from a state-accredited or recognized college, public school, or trade school, and have one year automotive repair experience in the engine performance area; OR
  - Possess a certificate in automotive technology from a state-accredited or recognized college, public school, or trade school with a minimum of 720 hours of course work that includes at least 280 hours in the engine performance area, and have one year of automotive repair experience in the engine performance area; OR
  - Have a minimum of two years of automotive repair experience in the engine performance area, and successfully complete Bureau-specified diagnostic and repair training - Alternative Training; AND
- Pass the state licensing examination.
- Renew the license biennially.

BAR is working with subject matter experts to develop the training to support these licenses.

### **Existing Technician Licenses**

Current Smog Check technician licenses will remain unchanged through their expiration date. Upon renewal, the licensee must choose either or both license types that meets their needs.

### **For More Information**

For more information about the latest developments concerning the Smog Check license restructure, please visit [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov).