



Smog Check Licensing Restructure Questions and Answers

1 Q: What is the Smog Check licensing restructure?

A: The Smog Check licensing restructure is a realignment of the program's licensing requirements with the best practices in automotive repair industry and marketplace. The restructure separates the existing Smog Check test-and-repair technician licenses into separate Inspector and Repair Technician licenses. The restructure also establishes a new Repair-Only station license, in addition to the existing Test-Only and Test-and-Repair stations.

The Restructure Provides the Following License Options:

Technician	Station
*Smog Check Inspector	Test-Only
Smog Check Repair Technician	Repair-Only
Individuals may opt for both licenses	Test-and-Repair

*Inspectors may work in Test-Only or Test-and Repair stations.

Smog Check Stations

2 Q: When will the Smog Check Repair-Only station license be implemented?

A: Implementation of the licensing restructure, including the new Repair-Only station license, is set to begin August 1, 2012. A new application, which will include the Repair-Only station license option, will be available on BAR's Web site in May 2012.

3 Q: Does the proposed license restructure affect existing Smog Check station equipment requirements?

A: No, the station equipment requirements for Smog Check Test-Only and Test-and-Repair stations will remain the same.

4 Q: Will Repair-Only stations have minimum equipment requirements?

A: Yes. Smog Check Repair-Only stations will be required to have engine diagnostic equipment and repair tools for diagnosing and repairing engine ignition systems, fuel systems, emission control systems, computer engine control systems, and other related components for each vehicle type that the station diagnoses and repairs. This will include the same minimum repair equipment required for a Test-and-Repair station. A few exceptions will apply to Repair-Only stations that only repair diesel powered vehicles. Specifically, Repair-Only stations specializing in diesel repairs will not be required to have equipment needed for the repair of gasoline powered vehicles, including an ignition analyzer, tachometer/dwell meter and a propane enrichment kit. Repair-Only stations will not be required to have inspection equipment since that type of station will be prohibited, based on its license classification, from performing any Smog Check inspections.

5 Q: Will a Repair-Only station have to employ a licensed Smog Check Repair Technician?

A: Yes. A Smog Check Repair-Only station must employ at least one licensed Smog Check Repair Technician. A current EA or EB “test-and-repair” license will also satisfy this requirement. Upon license renewal, the licensed individual must choose to become a licensed Smog Check Repair Technician.

6 Q: How do I apply for the Smog Check Repair-Only station license?

A: Beginning May 2012, applications will be available on the BAR Web site at www.smogcheck.dca.ca.gov, under the Industry tab. You may also call BAR’s Licensing Unit at (916) 255-3145 to request an application. Complete the application and return it with the application fee to the mailing address listed on the application. Issuance of Repair-Only station licenses will begin August 2012.

7 How will Repair-Only stations help consumers who qualify for repair assistance through the Consumer Assistance Program?

Repair-Only stations will not be certified to participate in the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP). However, like other Smog Check stations, they will be expected to understand and communicate all options available to consumers for emissions repairs, including the repairs offered through CAP and any applicable manufacturer emissions warranties.

In addition, as part of the license requirements for prospective Repair Technicians, candidates will be tested on their knowledge of various aspects of the Smog Check Program, including issues involving consumer rights.

8 Q: Will a Repair-Only station be able to sublet Smog Check inspections and repairs?

A: A Repair-Only station, like a Test-and-Repair station, cannot sublet any inspections and may only sublet repairs under of the following circumstances:

1. Repairs of exhaust system which are normally performed by muffler shops, provided that the malfunction has been previously diagnosed by the specific smog check station originally authorized by the customer to perform repairs to the vehicle.
2. Repairs of individual components that have been previously diagnosed as being defective and that have been removed by the smog check station originally authorized by the customer to perform repairs to the vehicle.
3. Repairs of diesel-powered vehicles provided the smog check station has obtained authorization from the customer to sublet repairs to the vehicle.
4. Repairs to a vehicle's transmission provided the smog check station has obtained authorization from the customer to sublet repairs to the vehicle.
5. Corrections to the vehicle's on-board computer systems' software provided that the malfunction has been previously diagnosed by the smog check station originally authorized by the customer to perform repairs to the vehicle.

In any of these cases, the smog check station originally authorized by the customer to perform the repairs is responsible for the repair in the same manner as if the station or its employees had done the repair. At the request of the customer, the station must inform the customer where the sublet work will be performed.

The new Repair-Only station license will allow automotive repair dealers that specialize in particular types of repair or the repair of particular types of vehicles the opportunity to provide Smog Check related repairs, and possibly minimize the need for the sublet of any repairs.

Smog Check Inspectors and Technicians

9 Q: When will the Smog Check License Restructure begin?

A: Implementation of the new Inspector and Repair Technician licenses is set to begin August 1, 2012.

10 Q: How will the proposed licensing restructure affect existing licensees?

A: Existing licenses for both stations and technicians will not be affected. Current EB or EA “test-and-repair” technician licenses will remain valid through their normal term. At the time of license renewal, the licensed individual will have the option to select the license or combination of licenses that best suits his or her needs and qualifications.

The restructure eliminates the option for an Intern Technician license upon adoption of the regulations, which is expected in February 2012. Any existing Intern licenses will remain valid through their normal term.

11 Q: What are the qualification requirements for the Smog Check Inspector license?

A: Candidates with minimal or no experience must complete both Engine and Emission Control training (Level 1) and Smog Check training (Level 2) within the last 2 years, and pass a state licensing examination.

Experienced candidates, (those who already have ASE A-6, A-8 and L-1 certifications, or meet one of several other acceptable options as noted below), must successfully complete Level 2 Smog Check training within the last 2 years, and pass a state licensing examination. Experienced candidates are not required to take Level 1 Engine and Emission Control training.

Proof of experience: Possess ASE A6, A8 and L1 certification; or possess an AA/AS degree or a Certificate in automotive technology and have 1-year experience; or have 2 years experience and have completed BAR specified training.

12 Q: What are the qualification requirements for the Repair Technician License?

A: Candidates may qualify for the Smog Check Repair Technician license in any one of the following four ways:

- 1) 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 and pass the state licensing examination; or
- 2) 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, and pass the state licensing examination; or
- 3) 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, and pass the state licensing examination; or
- 4) Have a minimum of two years of automotive repair experience in the engine performance area, and successfully complete bureau specified diagnostic and repair training within the last five years, and pass the state licensing examination.

13 Q: Will the licensing structure include Basic Area and Enhanced Area program designations for Smog Check Inspector and Technician licenses?

A: No. There will be a Smog Check Inspector license and a separate Repair Technician license available statewide in all Smog Check program areas. The existing Basic (EB) and Enhanced Area (EA) designations will be eliminated.

14 Q: Will candidates for the Inspector license be required to pass a licensing examination?

A: Yes. State law (H&S 44014(b)) requires that candidates for licensure pass a qualification examination administered by BAR.

15 Q: Will candidates for the Repair Technician license be required to pass a licensing examination?

A: Yes. State law (H&S 44014(b)) requires that candidates for licensure pass a qualification examination administered by BAR.

16 Q: Will update training be part of the process for renewing an Inspector and Repair Technician license?

A: Yes. Future update training will be offered in a continued education format where BAR certified schools and instructors develop training classes they determine are necessary for quality inspections and repairs. This format will allow licensees to choose the type of training that best suits their particular needs, rather than only having one training option, which has been the case in the past.

17 Q: What are the renewal requirements for the proposed Smog Check Repair Technician License?

A: To renew the Repair Technician license, a licensee must possess all three of following certifications from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE): Electrical/Electronic Systems (A6), Engine Performance (A8) and Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (L1), and have successfully completed 16 hours of BAR specified update training within the last two years.

A Repair Technician may opt to complete BAR specified diagnostic and repair training in lieu of possessing the ASE certifications. The diagnostic and repair training is valid for five years, the same term as the ASE certifications.

Renewal applicants must complete a renewal form providing proof that they have all three current the ASE certifications, or have completed all the BAR specified diagnostic and repair training, along with proof of completing the required update training. Applicants must submit this form along with the application fee to the BAR Licensing Unit.

18 Q: When an existing Test-and-Repair Technician applies to renew as a Repair Technician, does he or she have to possess the ASE certifications, or will alternative training remain an option?

A: Currently licensed EA or EB Test-and-Repair technicians may opt to complete BAR specified (alternative) diagnostic and repair training in lieu of the ASE certifications. Any EA and EB technician who has a mix or combination of ASE certifications and BAR (alternative) training may retain that mix when first renewing into the Repair Technician license. However, starting with the first renewal of the Repair Technician license, they either must possess all three ASE certifications (A-6, A-8, and L-1) or complete all the BAR (alternative) specified diagnostic and repair training.

19 Q: How do I apply for the Smog Check Inspector and/or Repair Technician license?

A: Beginning August 1, 2012, applications will be available on the BAR Web site at www.smogcheck.dca.ca.gov. The Industry tab will provide the needed information and allow you to download a single application that can be used to apply for the Inspector and/or Repair Technician licenses. You may also call BAR's Licensing Unit at (916) 255-3145 to request an application. Complete the application and return it to the BAR Licensing Unit with the application fee to the mailing address listed on the application.

20 Q: Can a licensed Smog Check Inspector perform any repair?

A: Inspectors are not allowed to perform any Smog Check related repair, with the exception of the replacement of a fuel cap, minor repair of a component damaged by the Inspector during an inspection, or the reconnection of hoses or vacuum lines.