



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2010

Contact: Russ Heimerich (916) 574-8171

Los Angeles Smog Check Station Faces Criminal Charges for Illegally Certifying Cars

License Suspended as a Result of "Clean Piping"

LOS ANGELES – A Southern California Smog Check shop identified by the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA/BAR) as routinely engaging in illegal practices and has been shut down and the owner and employees now could face criminal charges as a result of an investigation conducted BAR.

BAR sought, and was granted, an Interim Suspension Order (ISO) against **AM PM Smog** for numerous violations of the Health and Safety Code. AM PM Smog is a high-volume test facility and all indicators point to "clean piping" being a routine practice. Surveillance by BAR Investigators revealed that during a two-hour timeframe every one of the 13 tests conducted was a "clean pipe."

"Clean piping" is when a vehicle that would not pass a Smog Check inspection on its own is fraudulently inspected and certified as passing. In most instances, a technician or other individual uses a clean exhaust sample from another vehicle that will pass a Smog Check while entering data for the vehicle for which the Smog Check is required.

"'Clean piping' is illegal," said DCA Director Brian Stiger. "It is an environmental crime, as well as a violation of the Health and Safety Code. Dirty air is a problem for everyone, and clean-piping erodes the progress we're making in keeping California's skies blue."

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“The goal of California’s Smog Check Program is to reduce air pollution by identifying and then either repairing or retiring high polluting vehicles,” said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl.

“Shops that illegally certify vehicles seriously undermine the state’s efforts to clean the air. Ultimately everyone pays for the actions of these unethical businesses and their employees.”

In the course of its investigation, BAR found that vehicles were being “tested” and “certified” without even being present. BAR handed over its findings to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

An ISO immediately suspends the current license of the shop and its technicians while criminal and administrative proceedings are pending. BAR is seeking permanent revocation or suspension of the shop’s Automotive Repair Dealer registration, Smog Check station license and the technicians’ Smog Check licenses. The shop and the technicians have the right to contest those actions. **AM PM Smog** also faces criminal charges from the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Environmental Crimes Unit.

Following are the names of the shop, the owner, and technicians suspected of clean piping:

AM PM Smog

6401-½ South Avalon
Los Angeles, CA 90003

Devoney Dashay Nolberto, Owner
Action Sought: Administrative

Jermaine Elroy Williams, Smog Check Technician
Action Sought: Administrative and Criminal

Darnell Tyrone Usher, Unlicensed
Action Sought: Administrative and Criminal

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