



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Russ Heimerich (916) 574-8171

RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ORDERS SMOG CHECK STATION OWNER TO STAND TRIAL ON 14 FELONY COUNTS

Judge suspends Smog Check technician, station licenses

RIVERSIDE – A Riverside Smog Check station owner faces 14 felony counts and has had his technician and station licenses suspended by a Riverside County Superior Court judge after the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) found he was “clean piping” vehicles instead of giving them a proper Smog Check inspection.

Surveillance of El Paisa Test Only in Riverside revealed that Wajdi Jubran Haddad certified Smog Check inspections on multiple vehicles that were never at his station. Haddad used a method called “clean piping” to certify vehicles. Clean piping is when a technician or other individual uses a clean exhaust sample from another vehicle that will pass a Smog Check inspection while entering data for the vehicle for which the Smog Check is required.

“Clean piping is a serious problem that undermines the integrity of the Smog Check program and adversely impacts the air we breathe,” said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. “BAR is committed to taking swift action against Smog Check station owners and technicians who engage in these practices.”

Riverside County Superior Court Judge Joe Littlejohn on Friday ordered Haddad to stand trial on 14 felony counts and, at BAR’s request, ordered his license to be suspended pending the outcome of the criminal proceedings.

BAR will proceed with an administrative action to permanently revoke Haddad’s Smog Check station and technician licenses in separate administrative hearings.

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