

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2011

Contact: Glenn Mason (916) 574-8168

CARLSBAD SMOG CHECK TECHNICIAN'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" and "clean plugging" by Automotive Solutions Technician

CARLSBAD – A Carlsbad Smog Check technician accused of illegal “clean piping” and “clean plugging,” had his smog check technician’s license suspended pending a revocation hearing as a result of an investigation by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR).

A Superior Court judge has granted BAR’s request, pursuant to Penal Code section 23 (PC23), to immediately suspend the Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License of Saber H. Nejad. This section allows BAR to make recommendations for license suspension to the court during a criminal proceeding.

Additionally, Nejad was convicted in the criminal hearing of a felony, which was reduced to a misdemeanor conditioned on payment of costs to BAR and surrendering his smog technician license to the Attorney General. The Court also sentenced Nejad to three years probation, and a jail sentence to time served.

BAR’s investigation of Nejad revealed multiple instances of “clean piping” and “clean plugging” while employed at Automotive Solutions, 505 Oak Avenue, Carlsbad, California.

“Clean piping” is when a vehicle, that would not pass a Smog Check inspection on its own is fraudulently inspected and certified as passing. To accomplish this, 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 certificate is required.

CARLSBAD SMOG CHECK TECHNICIAN'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

2-2-2-2-2

“Clean plugging” consists of using another vehicle’s properly functioning On Board Diagnostic (OBD II) system to generate a passing OBDII test result to illegally issue a smog certificate to a vehicle that is not in smog compliance and/or not present for testing.

“The bottom line is clean piping and clean plugging is against the law,” said DCA Director Brian Stiger. Dirty air is a problem for everyone and BAR will act quickly to take bad players out of business.”

“California’s Smog Check Program aims to reduce air pollution by ensuring that vehicles are in compliance with emissions standards,” said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. “Many consumers may not realize the benefit of a well-maintained vehicle – it not only improves the air we breathe, but it ultimately saves them money.”

BAR sought the suspension request to prevent Nejad from being able to work as a licensed Smog Check technician while BAR proceeds with its enforcement case. BAR is seeking to permanently revoke his license.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the investigation.

The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers who wish to file a complaint against an auto repair facility can contact the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.autorepair.ca.gov.

###