

# Vehicle Industry News VIN 2017-10 Smog Check Vehicle Inspection Reports

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**Effective: Immediately** 

## **New Information**

Effective February 9, 2017, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) began an onboard diagnostic (OBD) data check in certain smog check stations, due to a change or enhancement to the BAR OBD inspection system (OIS).

Some vehicles cannot be issued certificates by a smog station because the vehicle's OBD system data is inappropriate for the vehicle being tested. However, certificates may be issued for those vehicles by a referee.

#### **Procedures**

If a customer submits a Smog Check Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) that shows a "DATA CHECK FAIL" as the overall test result:

- Accept the VIR as a Failed smog test.
- Collect fees as appropriate.
- Refer motorists to the following message on BAR's website at www.bar.ca.gov/Consumer/Referee/Referee\_Centers.html:

Referee centers also reinspect vehicles that receive a "DATA CHECK FAIL" during a BAR-OIS inspection. A "DATA CHECK FAIL" occurs when data downloaded from the vehicle's OBD system during its last inspection is inappropriate for that vehicle. In order for the vehicle to receive a Smog Check certificate, the Referee must perform an inspection and verify the appropriateness of the data. Note that once the Referee issues a Smog Check certificate to your vehicle, it may be inspected at other stations during the next inspection cycle. A Referee inspection appointment may be scheduled by calling 1-800-622-7733.

# **Background**

Passing smog test results are transmitted electronically to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and verified programmatically during the processing of automated transactions. After completion of a smog test, the smog station provides the customer a Smog Check VIR that contains smog test results. Smog Check VIRs which indicate a vehicle failed a smog check may be shown to DMV as substantiation for issuing a TOP, when needed.

## **Distribution**

Notification that this memo is available online at **www.dmv.ca.gov** under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated Email Alert System in April 2017.

### References

California Code of Regulations §3340.42.2(c)(7)
California Health and Safety Code §§44011, 44015, 44036(b)(3)(K), and 44015(a)(2)
Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual §§3.2 and 25.5

## **Contact**

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo.