



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Los Angeles County Smog Check Station's Licenses Suspended

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping"

LOS ANGELES – A Carson Smog Check Station, its station owner and two technicians have had their licenses suspended pending a revocation hearing as a result of an investigation by the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA/BAR).

An Administrative Law judge has granted BAR's request for Interim Suspension Orders (ISO) to immediately suspend the Automotive Repair Dealer registration and Smog Check Test Only Station license of Abdullah I. Juma, owner of Carson Test Only, 22025 Avalon Blvd., Unit D, in Carson, California. The judge also suspended the Advanced Emission Specialist Technician licenses of Zaid Elodat and Fakher Juma.

In August 2010, BAR's investigation of Carson Test Only revealed multiple instances of "clean piping".

"Clean piping" is when a vehicle, that would not pass a Smog Check inspection on its own or is not present for testing is fraudulently 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.

"Auto pollution is a threat to public health," said DCA Acting Director Brian Stiger. "Our Department will continue to ferret out smog check technicians who defraud and endanger the public by keeping polluting cars on the road."

"The vast majority of Smog Check technicians are honest, hardworking employees," said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. "When we find shops or technicians who defraud and endanger the public we will act quickly to put them out of business."

BAR sought the ISOs to shut down Carson Test Only and prevent Elodat and Juma from being able to work as licensed Smog Check technicians while BAR proceeds with its enforcement case. BAR is seeking to permanently revoke both licenses.

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

Los Angeles County Smog Check Stations Licenses Suspended

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BAR has many publications that offer help to consumers. One such publication is the "Consumer's Guide to Auto Repair." Some of the topics covered are How to Select a Shop and Teardown Estimates. Here's the link:

http://www.bar.ca.gov/80_BARResources/07_AutoRepair/Auto_Rep_Guide.pdf

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.

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