



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOS ANGELES SMOG CHECK TECHNICIAN'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" by ATM Motors' Smog Technician

LOS ANGELES – A Los Angeles Smog Check technician accused of illegal "clean piping," has had his license suspended pending a revocation hearing as a result of an investigation by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR). Additionally, the judge restricted ATM Motors' station license.

An Administrative Law judge has granted BAR's request for an Interim Suspension Order (ISO) to immediately suspend the Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License issued to Juan A. Rios. Additionally, the Administrative Law judge has restricted the Automotive Repair Dealer registration and the Smog Check Test Only Station licenses of Angel Torres, aka Jose Angel Torres Medrano, owner of ATM Motors, 5168 South Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA.

"Auto pollution is a threat to public health," said DCA Director Brian Stiger. "BAR will continue to prosecute smog check station operators and technicians who defraud and endanger the public by keeping polluting cars on the road."

"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.

"Clean piping" is illegal, "said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. "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."

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. Additionally, BAR will be submitting the results of the investigation to the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

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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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