



NEWS RELEASE

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SHERMAN OAKS SMOG CHECK STATION'S LICENSES SUSPENDED

State Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" by Accurate Smog Test

SHERMAN OAKS – The California Department of Consumer Affairs Bureau of Automotive Repair (Bureau) has shut down a Sherman Oaks Smog Check Test Only station, and suspended the licenses of the owner after investigators discovered he was illegally sneaking cars past the state's Smog Check test.

"The goal of California's Smog Check Program is to reduce air pollution by bringing vehicles into compliance with emissions standards," said Bureau Chief Sherry Mehl. "High polluting vehicles need to be either repaired or retired in order to protect the air we breathe. When stations or technicians cheat, everyone suffers."

Administrative Law Judge Amy C. Lahr-Yerkey has granted the Bureau's request for Interim Suspension Orders to immediately suspend the Automotive Repair Dealer Registration and the Smog Check Test Only Station Licenses of Accurate Smog Test Only owner Edmond Eyssakhanian, 4969 Van Nuys Blvd., Unit B, in Sherman Oaks. The ALJ also suspended the Eyssakhanian's Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License.

The Bureau's investigation of Accurate Smog Test Only revealed the station committed multiple illegal acts of "clean piping".

"Clean piping" occurs 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.

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“Auto pollution is a serious health threat,” said Acting DCA Director Brian Stiger. “The Bureau will continue to prosecute smog check station operators and technicians who defraud and endanger the public by keeping high polluting cars on the road.”

The Bureau sought the ISOs to shut down Accurate Smog Test Only and prevent Eyssakhanian from being able to work as a licensed Smog Check technician while the Bureau proceeds with its enforcement case. The Bureau is seeking to permanently revoke all of his licenses.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the investigation. The Bureau will also submit the results of its investigation to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office 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.