

Below is a summary from the BAR Advisory Group meeting and workshop held on January 23, 2020 in Sacramento. Dave Kusa also participated in both the BAG meeting and the Workshop.

1) DCA News and Updates. The new DCA Director, Kim Kirchmeyer provided a summary of her goals including focusing on having regulations move faster and streamlining the time frame for licensee investigations.

2) 2019-20 Program Updates. BAR managers and supervisors provided an update of accomplishments re: programs for the year and goals for 2020. Some the highlights included: performing 13,461 roadside inspections, replacing 68 vehicles in BAR fleet with 57 Plug-In Hybrid vehicles and 11 Hydrogen vehicle to meet ZEV goals; the CAP program retired 52,556 and repaired 2,450 vehicles; developed program for schools to acquire retired cars for teaching; implemented permanent DTCs for smog check; transitioned BAR-97 to internet connectivity; handled 13,050 consumer complaints, issued 794 smog citations; filed 384 administrative cases; continued to provide in-house technical and training for program representatives; completed the Cal-VISTA project; redesigned BAR website. Goals for 2020 include continue modernization of licensing processes, developing requirements for smog check stations to use bio-metrics including hand prints instead of passwords and to update DAD specifications. The presentation will be posted on website. See link. https://www.bar.ca.gov/About_BAR/BAR_Advisory_Group.aspx

3) Legislation and Regulations update. Two years bills pending: AB 161 (Electronic Receipts); AB 210 (Smog Exemption); AB 390 (Violations for muffler noise); AB 755 (Tire Tax); AB 1263 (Consumer Complaints); AB 1359 (Towing); AB 1616 (Expunged Convictions); SB 59 (Automated Vehicle Technology); SB 460 (Biennial Registration). Regulations: Rehabilitation Criteria for licensure; Laws/Regulations training; STAR Program clean up; Smog Check Repair Assistance; Licensing applications; Smog Check Training Providers; Brake Lamp Stations and Adjusters updates. For more information contact Lucy Sarkisyan or Holly O'Conner at Lusine.Sarkisyan@dca.ca.gov or Holly.Oconner@dca.ca.gov.

4) Vehicle Safety Inspection Presentation. Thomas Tucker of Auto Care Association (ACA) provided an excellent summary of vehicle safety inspection programs in the united states and how the data shows that safety inspection programs save lives. The inspections ensure that all cars on the road adhere to a "minimum safety standard". There are currently about 15 states that have safety inspection programs. Some of these states have introduced legislation to eliminate the programs however they have all failed.

Vehicle defects is a major contributor to accidents/fatalities, average age of vehicles is increasing, deferred maintenance is another contributor factor to failures. Technology is advancing rapidly (e.g. ADAS) and proper calibrations not taking place. ACA is requesting that California support funding request to conduct a state study on the safety and economic benefits of a vehicle inspection program in California. The presentation will be posted on BAR website. Tom Tucker email: tom.tucker@autocare.org

5) Automotive Repair Dealer Inspection System (ARDIS) Presentation. This project was created to replace the antiquated gas audit software created in the 1990's. The ARDIS used by gas audits and fleets staff to perform gas audits will generate required documents including station reports and integrated DocuSign functionality. According to BAR this will make the process faster, better and cheaper. BAR is planning to expand this system to field operations and other areas within BAR. For more information contact Gary Goodwin at Gary.Goodwin@dca.ca.gov

6) Enforcement Statistics Update. Consumer Complaints to BAR are as follows: Engine Repair/Performance 34%; General Repair Maintenance 18%; Auto Body 15%; Transmission 8%; Smog 6%; Used Car Transactions 4%; Vehicle Warranty 3%; Unlicensed Activity 4%. For more information contact: Bill Thomas at Bill.Thomas@dca.ca.gov.

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Next BAR Advisory Group meeting is Thursday, April 23, 2020.

Workshop

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) - Division of Measurements Standards along with BAR held a workshop after the BAG meeting to discuss regulatory concepts related to specifications for transmission fluids. Repair facilities rely on representations made by the producers/distributors and information on the product labels. According to CDFA, producers and additive suppliers developing products make claims of meeting OEM performance requirements but are failing to meet the requirements. One of the CDFA ideas is to require all producers to provide CDFA with the data/testing (blueprint) supporting claims made on the product labels. CDFA will begin drafting regulations. We will continue to work with CDFA on these new regulations. The CDFA presentation will be posted on the BAR website. For more information contact Allan Morrison at Allan.morrison@cdfa.ca.gov