

## **BAR Advisory Group Meeting Jan 19, 2017**

Below is a summary of the BAR Advisory Group meeting that took place on Jan 19, 2017, from ASCCA's Lobbyist Jack Molodanof.

### **BAR Personal Changes**

BAR Chief, Pat Dorais announced several BAR personnel changes. Effective February 1, Tim Cocoran will replace Dan Povey, over statewide enforcement activities. Dan Povey will be returning as a retired annuitant and will handle special projects, including the regulation package dealing with bills vetoed last year (SB 778 oil change and AB 873 minor services). Dennis Hayes, deputy of smog check operations is leaving and moving to DCA. Nina Tantrapol, who handled regulations, has left for another state position. DCA clarified that the BAR Sunset Review before the state legislature will take place next year, not this year.

### **Regulations**

BAR is moving forward with a major regulation package that will deal with bills vetoed last year – SB 778 and AB 873. BAR is also working to implement SB 1046 – ignition interlock devices. Pat Dorais indicated that BAR will also review and make sure that any BAR field audits/inspections for ignition interlock devices are consistent and standardized.

#### **BAR regulations that continue to move forward include:**

- Mobile auto repair advertising (pending DCA final review)
- BAR-97 equipment specifications and removing dedicated analog phone line/update (initial stages)
- Electronic documents and authorizations (pending review by the Agency)
- Brake and lamp handbooks updates (pending DCA information review)
- STAR program clean-up (DCA informal review)
- Bureau-Certified Institutions and Instructors (pending review by agency); and
- Licensing application updates (DCA informal review)

### **California Vehicle Inspection System Transition (Cal-Vista) Project Update**

The Cal-Vista project consists of transferring the current data center to a state-owned data center (OTech) and publishing an RFP to obtain maintenance and operation (M&O) services for the smog check program. SGS currently has the M&O contract. Project dependencies include the BAR-97 dial up to conversion regulations. BAR is on track to meet the deadlines on the project.

### **Online License Renewal Process**

Good news! Automotive Repair Dealers are now allowed to renew registrations/licenses online. The on-line renewal is on the BAR website and allows for faster processing times. The process requires the ARD to answer questions to determine eligibility, i.e. cannot renew if ARD on probation, and provides for credit card payment – convenience fee is \$1.00. Notice of online renewal option information should be included in the automotive repair shop BAR renewal notices.

### **Automotive Fuels & Products (AB 808)**

Allan Morrison from the Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Measurement Standards (CDFA) gave an update. CDFA oversees and governs quality standards and labeling requirements for all motor oil, transmission fluid, engine coolant, and brake fluid that is sold in the state. Since AB 808 passed, the CDFA is in the process of making major changes with regard to motor oil invoicing requirements which includes, listing viscosity on the invoice and transmission fluid specifications (adding additives to meet OE specifications). CDFA will be providing additional workshops for interested parties. We need to work closely with CDFA on these regulations and monitor as they move forward.

### **On Board Diagnostics (OBD) Data Check**

BAR is starting to track smog checks where information is collected and unexpected data/mismatches occur from a vehicle during an OBD inspection test for that type of vehicle. If such mismatch occurs, then the vehicle will fail and is required to go to the referee. The reason that the vehicle must go to the referee is that some sort of fraud is suspected. For more information, please contact Paul Hedglin at (916)-403-0223.

### **Implementation of AB 2153 (Lead Acid Battery fee)**

The Board of Equalization provided a presentation on new battery fees starting April 1, 2017. Repair shops will be responsible for charging and collecting from customers a \$1.00 battery fee on all sales of new lead-acid batteries. Shops may retain 1.5 percent of the fee as the cost of reimbursement. Shops also may charge a refundable, taxable core deposit. The \$1.00 fee must be separately listed on the invoice. If a shop is selling batteries over the counter to customers, instead of replacing new batteries as part of the auto repair service, the shop must provide specific written notices visible to the public or on the invoice. Shops must accept lead-acid batteries without charging a fee. For more information, visit <http://www.boe.ca.gov/>.

### **Enforcement Statistics Update**

BAR complaint trends for 2016-17 are as follows:

- Engine repair/performance - 33%
- General repair and maintenance - 18%
- Auto body - 14%
- Transmission - 10%
- Smog - 8%
- Used car transactions - 3%
- Unlicensed activity - 3%
- Vehicle warranty - 2%
- Other - 8%

Next BAR Advisory meeting will be on April 20, 2017. The next meeting will include a telematics/autonomous vehicle discussion and third party internet repair services (i.e. my mechanic) discussion.