

4/25/15

## **BAR Advisory Group Meeting (4/22/15) Summary**

*By Jack Molodanof*

Below is a summary of the April 22, 2015 BAR Advisory Group meeting held in Sacramento. Tracy Renee and Mary Kennitz also attended the meeting.

### **1) DCA News**

The Deputy Director of Communications (Russ Heimerich) provided updates on media. DCA has developed videos for roadside service (which won an award), and the auto body inspection video. The DCA also has been working with media on recent sting operations and will continue to do so. They are working on videos for the smog check program as well.

### **2) Consumer and Industry Survey Cards**

BAR has historically surveyed both consumers and industry to obtain feedback on the complaint process. Previously, postcards were sent to both parties. Approximately 4 years ago, BAR switched to Survey Monkey but the response rate fell to 2%-3%. BAR is now allowing for optional response methods, including postcards or Survey Monkey and hopes this will encourage more responses. The surveys are intended to help improve BAR service.

### **3) CAP/EFMP Program Update**

Repair Assistance Program, Fiscal Year 2014/15 (July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015):

- Expenditures: \$2,742,373
- Vehicles repaired: 5,994
- \$458 average cost per vehicle

Vehicle Retirement Program (July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015):

- Expenditures: \$17,417,749
- Vehicles repaired: 14,774

Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program (EFMP) (July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015):

- Expenditures: \$33,109,501
- Vehicles repaired: 27,885

### **4) OIS/BAR-97 Update**

BAR-OIS is mandatory as of March 9, 2015. According to BAR, the transition has been smooth. Three DAD vendors were certified: Applus, Drew and Worldwide. Over 7,000 DADs are in use at Smog Stations. Two-thirds of all inspections are BAR-OIS. Citations are being issued when OIS-required testing is performed on a BAR-97. The BAR-97 is required when inspecting 1999 and older model year gasoline vehicles. Vendors for BAR-97 are updating equipment. Inspections for hybrid vehicles are required and model years are being phased in. OBD readiness monitor standards are changing. BAR plans to ET Blast stations regarding new readiness monitor standards. For more information contact Greg Coburn at 916-403-0154.

### **5) STAR Program Update**

Q1 2015 STAR scores released; short term measures included OIS data for the first time; Second

half of 2014 Follow-up Pass Rate (FPR) scores included OIS data. Beta test excluded from STAR calculations. BAR-97 sample sizes shrunk toward end of 2014 as more stations performed OIS tests. Like vehicles comparison accounts for previous and current test procedures. OIS data only used for calculation of Similar Vehicle Failure Rate (SVFR), FPR, max readiness. Stations don't need a score for each short term performance measure to be eligible for STAR. Similar Vehicle Failure Rate alone is sufficient. BAR-97 inspections will continue to feed into STAR performance measures. BAR is proposing regulations with regard to performance measures, including max unset readiness monitors to be removed as a STAR performance criterion; this will still be reported but only for informational purposes. The SVFR standard is to be relaxed. Follow up pass rate (FPR). No score no longer allowed for stations. Either the station or the inspector must have a score of 0.4 or higher. Techs with low FPR scores will be able to perform repairs at STAR stations. The BAR will prepare and submit their report to the legislature in July, as required by AB 2289 re: emission reductions. Any questions, please call Garrett Torgerson at 916-403-0315.

#### **6) Unlicensed Activity**

BAR partners with EDD, DIR, BOE, FTB, FBI and other agencies in the Underground Economy Enforcement Task Force. BAR is involved in undercover sting operations.

- In 2013 there were 263 citations issued for unlicensed activity.
- In 2014 there were 375 citations issued.
- So far, for 2015 (through March 31) there have been 116 unlicensed citations issued. There was a lot of discussion about unlicensed BAR activity efforts and enforcement procedures.

#### **7) Enforcement Update**

BAR provided an update on complaint allegations and trends. Key areas include negligence, fraud, estimates and authorization issues. With regard to the OIS conversation, BAR has 225 citation requests for incorrect tests. 121 were STAR stations.

#### **8) Legislation and Regulations Updates**

BAR is tracking the following bills:

- AB 873 (Automotive Repair)
- AB 1222 (Tow Trucks)
- AB 1474 (Community Colleges Technical Education)
- SB 206 (On-board Diagnostic Systems)

BAR Regulations include:

- Disciplinary Guidelines
- BAR-certified institutions and instructors
- Windshield replacement standards
- Registration and licensing application updates
- Mobile ARD advertising
- Electronic documents and authorizations and STAR regulations clean-up

The next BAR Advisory Committee meeting is on July 23, 2015 in Sacramento.

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### **Public Workshop**

After the BAR Group meeting, the BAR held a public workshop to discuss current exemptions from the definition of repair and what is considered a minor repair and what should require BAR oversight. The workshop was designed as a forum for more detailed discussion of AB 873 (Jones) which would require BAR to adopt regulations and define minor services. A history of the legislation as well as prior legislation was discussed. Overall, consensus was that batteries, tires, spark plugs, and oil changes all should be regulated by BAR. The only service which may be considered minor was changing windshield wipers.

AB 873 was heard in the Assembly policy Committee this week and passed by a vote of 14-0.