



WHAT IS A SMOG CHECK?

The Smog Check Program is an important part of the State's efforts to improve the air we breathe. Smog Check inspections are designed to identify vehicles with excess emissions so they can be properly repaired. The Program has greatly reduced air pollution created by millions of cars in California.

WHO OVERSEES THE SMOG CHECK PROGRAM?

The California Department of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Automotive Repair administers the Smog Check Program. Vehicles are inspected each year by more than 7,000 State-licensed and independently owned stations throughout the State.



IS MY VEHICLE SUBJECT TO A SMOG CHECK?

Gasoline-powered vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and alternative-fuel vehicles that are model year 1976 and newer require a Smog Check, with the following exceptions:

- (1) Six model-years and newer do not need a biennial (every other year) inspection.
- (2) Four model-years and newer do not need a change-of-ownership inspection.

To determine the first year a vehicle is subject to a biennial or change-of-ownership Smog Check, add six or four, respectively, to the model year of a vehicle. For example, a 2010 model-year vehicle will first be subject to a biennial Smog Check in 2016 (2010 + 6 = 2016) and a change-of-ownership Smog Check in 2014 (2010 + 4 = 2014).

Diesel-powered vehicles 1998 and newer with a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds and less require a Smog Check.

Motorcycles and electric-powered vehicles are currently exempt from the Smog Check Program.

THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR IS HERE TO HELP.

FIND A STATION

Need a Smog Check or emission-related repairs? Find a station near you by using our online tool.

VEHICLE RETIREMENT

Vehicle not worth repairing? You could receive up to \$1,500 to retire your vehicle.

REPAIR ASSISTANCE

Failed a Smog Check? You may qualify for up to \$500 in emission-related repairs for your vehicle.

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

Problem with an automotive repair shop or Smog Check station? One of our representatives will work with you and the shop to try and resolve the issue.

REFEREE CENTERS

Trouble passing a Smog Check? State-authorized Referees can assist you with inspections of unusual vehicles and locating hard-to-find emission parts.

To learn more, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call (800) 952-5210.



BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

10949 North Mather Boulevard
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15-146HSA



SOME THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

SMOG CHECK

IN CALIFORNIA



HOW OFTEN DOES MY VEHICLE HAVE TO BE TESTED?

If your vehicle is subject to a Smog Check, it must be tested every other year as a condition of registration. An inspection is also required if you sell a vehicle and when registering a vehicle for the first time in California.

HOW CAN I FIND A SMOG CHECK STATION IN MY AREA?

To find a Smog Check station in your area, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call (800) 952-5210.

DO I NEED TO TAKE ANYTHING WITH ME TO MY SMOG CHECK?

Remember to take your Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) registration renewal form with you when getting a Smog Check. This will help ensure that the correct vehicle information and test results are electronically sent to DMV.

WHAT IS A STAR STATION?

Some vehicles require a Smog Check at a STAR station. STAR stations meet specified performance standards established by the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Some STAR stations are licensed to perform only tests, while others are licensed to perform both tests and repairs. The station is required to post a sign on the services it is licensed to perform.



VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL NOTICE

VIN	MAKE	YR	BODY TYPE	LICENSE PLATE	AMOUNT DUE	DUE DATE
	NISS	1996	4D		\$83	01/24/2013



SMOG Certification Required at a STAR station
(See reverse side of notice)



Please take this notice to a STAR station



HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY VEHICLE NEEDS A TEST AT A STAR STATION?

Your DMV registration renewal form will indicate whether your vehicle requires a Smog Check at a STAR station.

HOW MUCH DOES A SMOG CHECK COST?

The Bureau of Automotive Repair does not regulate inspection prices, but recommends that you shop around and compare prices of several different stations before taking your vehicle in for its Smog Check.

WHAT IF MY VEHICLE FAILS A SMOG CHECK?

Ask the inspector to explain the reason for the failure and then seek a repair technician to correct the problem. Many inspectors are also licensed to perform repairs.

If you have a dispute about the results of your Smog Check, you can file a complaint online with the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Or, if you would like a second opinion about the inspection, schedule an appointment with a State-authorized Referee by calling (800) 622-7733 or by visiting www.asktheref.org.

HOW CAN I HELP MY VEHICLE PASS A SMOG CHECK?

Performing regular and proper maintenance according to your owner's manual and not tampering with the emissions-control equipment will help improve your vehicle's chances of passing a Smog Check. If the "Check Engine" light comes on, take your vehicle to a licensed repair station as soon as you can to have the problem diagnosed—do not wait for the vehicle's next scheduled Smog Check. A blinking or flashing light indicates a malfunction that should be addressed immediately to avoid serious damage to the engine or emission-control systems. Check your owner's manual for repairs that may be covered under your vehicle manufacturer's emissions warranty.



SERVICE ENGINE SOON!

CHECK ENGINE

ARE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP IF MY VEHICLE FAILS?

Yes. The Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) offers both repair assistance and vehicle retirement options to consumers whose vehicles fail a Smog Check.

WHAT IS REPAIR ASSISTANCE?

Up to \$500 in emission-related repairs is available to income-eligible consumers whose vehicles fail a biennial (every other year) Smog Check. The repairs must be performed at a Smog Check station under contract with the State to perform this service.

WHAT IS VEHICLE RETIREMENT?

Up to \$1,500 is available to consumers who choose to retire a vehicle from operation rather than repair it. The vehicle must be retired at a State-approved dismantler.

WHERE CAN I GET A CAP APPLICATION?

To obtain a CAP application for either repair assistance or vehicle retirement, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call (800) 952-5210.

