I'm not a bot

Star smog test

No. However, if you are given a car by a family member (a spouse, domestic partner, sibling, child, parent, grandparent, or grandchild) who bought it for you without first titling the car in their name, a smog inspection is required. Whether or not you're in the good graces of the Bureau of Automotive Repair, it's always a good idea to remain up-to-date so you can intelligently help your customers understand California's complex SMOG regulation requirements. One of the more common confusions is the difference between a regular SMOG check station and a STAR smog station. You might explain it to a customer like this: A regular SMOG station is a less strenuous test, and there are many more SMOG check stations across the state. A "test only" station means just that – it can only perform the tests, and not conduct any repairs. A STAR smog station is a participant in the Bureau of Automotive Repair's STAR program and is a more strenuous testing station. Of which there are two types: STAR Test Only Centers – which, not surprisingly, can only do the tests. STAR Test & Repair Centers – which can do both the test and the repairs. When a consumer receives his or her notice of renewal from the DMV, they are notified as to what type of test they need. They don't, of course, have any choice in the matter. That can be frustrating to the consumer, and they can vent at you – the SMOG / STAR station owner or technician. Even though you don't control the Bureau of Automotive repair and the regulations, they can "take it out on you" when they're frustrated. Just stay calm and explain to them, calmly, how the program works and that you – like them – are just a California citizen. You don't make the legal and regulatory environment: you just live in it. Bureau of Automotive Repair: Three Types of Vehicles for SMOG checks Which cars fall under which tests? Well the Bureau of Automotive Repair doesn't explain this in great detail, but basically it is thought – Gross polluters (cars which really failed a previous test) – often get a STAR test requirement. High Emitter Profile vehicles – certain types of cars which tend to be bad in terms of pollution. Random – just a random sample of vehicles. It doesn't really matter to the consumer. They have to do what they have to do. And you have to do what you have to do: test their vehicle in accordance with California's tough SMOG law. If, for whatever reason, you receive a citation or letter from the Bureau of Automotive Repair, please contact our Bureau of Automotive defense attorneys. Just as you are an expert in SMOG checks, we are focused on working with the regulatory and statutory requirements of the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Call us for a free consultation, today. Verifying that you are not a robot... What is the difference with a regular smog station and a STAR smog station? You received your DMV renewal notice and discovered it says "Smog Certification Required at a STAR Station". No need to panic. All this means is that the DMV has chosen your vehicle to be inspected at a STAR certified smog station which is monitored closely by the BAR and must conform to high standards established by the Bureau of Automotive Repairs. Some STAR stations are only authorized to perform smog inspections. These stations are known as STAR Test Only stations. Other STAR certified smog centers can perform smog inspections as well as smog check repairs. These smog stations are known as STAR Test & Repair stations. Both STAR stations are allowed to perform regular and STAR smog checks. STAR Test Only Centers are only authorized to perform smog inspections and are not allowed to perform smog check repairs. STAR Test & Repair Stations are authorized to perform STAR smog inspections, as well as repair and certify all vehicles. If the DMV is asking for "Smog Certificate Required at a STAR station" you can visit either of these smog test center types. STAR certified smog station duties and responsibilities STAR Test Only Center - Smog test only centers are authorized by the State of California to perform both Regular and Test Only smog inspections. They are not allowed to perform any smog repairs. A Test Only center's main obligation is to perform a non-bias and accurate smog inspection. They are certified to inspect all DMV required vehicles. STAR Test & Repair (CAP) - STAR Test & Repair stations are authorized by the Bureau of Automotive Repairs to perform, along with smog check repairs, regular smog inspections and test only smog checks. A STAR Test & Repair station is the only type of smog check center which can inspect, repair and certify any and all vehicles. These stations are participants of the State's Consumer Assistance Program and are inspected by the State of California monthly. STAR Test & Repair stations may also perform smog repairs on vehicles participating in the Consumer Assistance Program. How are vehicles selected for STAR smog check? The State of California uses the following three strategies to determine whether a vehicle is STAR station designated or not: Gross polluters (vehicles which have failed a previous smog inspection with very high emission readings) High Emitter Profile vehicles. These are vehicle types designated by the Bureau of Automotive Repair as having high chances of failing the smog inspection. A random sample of all vehicles registered in California and being driven on public roadways. If your vehicle has been selected to undergo a STAR smog check don't be alarmed. Simply locate a convenient STAR certified smog station and proceed with the inspection. The smog technician conducting the test can inform you of any serious issues. There are several hundered STAR smog stations throughout California and you can find one in your area using our STAR Smog Station Locator. How much does a STAR smog check cost? STAR smog stations, as with all smog stations, are independently owned and operated businesses. The owners of these smog test centers or test & repair stations have to right to choose the amount they will charge consumers for their services. Except for an $8.25 State Certificate fee, STAR Test Only centers and STAR Test & Repair stations will have different prices, typically between $29.95 and $59.95 plus state fee. Find a STAR station by using our smog station and coupon search tool. Select "STAR Smog Station" from the drop down list, enter your zipcode and go. The STAR Program, overseen by California's Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR), licenses repair stations to conduct smog tests and repairs. STAR smog stations are authorized testing centers that can perform all the tests required to certify your vehicle. They are subject to additional oversight and review by the BAR and conduct more comprehensive and strenuous smog testing than regular smog check stations. Testing at a STAR smog station may take longer and cost more than at a regular smog check station, as the process is more comprehensive.Why must I smog my car at a STAR location? Characteristics Values Type of Stations STAR Test Only Centers, STAR Test & Repair Centers Testing Capabilities Conduct all tests required to certify a vehicle Testing Requirements Only certain types of vehicles are eligible, typically new vehicles or those identified as high emitters Testing Fees Set by the state Testing Time May take longer due to the comprehensive process Testing Equipment Collects data for short-term and long-term performance measures Testing Results Pass/fail decisions are made on a calendar-quarter basis Inspector Capabilities Can challenge incidents that affect performance measures Inspector Report Cards Provide performance data to assist in improving individual performance There are two types of STAR stations: "Test Only" centres, which are licensed to conduct only smog tests, and "Test and Repair" centres, which are authorised to conduct smog tests and repairs. STAR stations can perform both regular and STAR smog checks. The latter is required for certain vehicles, including those that have failed previous smog checks due to excessively high emissions levels and those identified as high-emitters.The data collected during a vehicle inspection at a STAR station includes short-term performance measures such as Test Deviations, Similar Vehicle Failure Rate (SVFR), and Incorrect Gear Selection during the ASM test. These scores are updated monthly, while pass/fail decisions are made quarterly. The Follow-up Pass Rate (FPR), a long-term performance measure, is calculated and updated every six months, in January and July.It is important to note that not all vehicles need to be tested at a STAR station. If a vehicle owner only requires a standard smog check, they can visit any authorised smog check station. These stations are certified by the DMV to perform basic smog tests, but they may not be able to certify all vehicles. In contrast, STAR stations are authorised to certify vehicles after conducting the necessary tests. STAR stations are licensed by California's Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) to conduct more comprehensive and meticulous smog tests and repairs. These stations are subject to additional oversight and review by the BAR, ensuring the highest standards of testing. The rigorous monitoring and evaluation processes guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the test results.The STAR program is designed to provide an extra layer of scrutiny and quality assurance. STAR stations undergo regular and detailed assessments of their testing procedures and equipment. This supplementary supervision helps maintain the integrity of the smog testing program and ensures that these stations adhere to stringent standards. The BAR closely monitors the performance of STAR stations through various measures, including short-term and long-term metrics.Short-term performance measures, such as Test Deviations, Similar Vehicle Failure Rate (SVFR), and Incorrect Gear Selection during the ASM test, are evaluated monthly. These metrics provide a litmus test of recent performance, helping stations identify areas for improvement. On the other hand, long-term performance measures like the Follow-up Pass Rate (FPR) are calculated and updated every six months, in January and July. The FPR assesses the effectiveness of inspections by evaluating the pass rates of vehicles after they have been repaired.The BAR also scrutinizes the behaviours and practices of STAR stations and their inspectors. Specific actions, such as failing to identify functional inspection failures or manipulating vehicle parameters to generate more lenient emission standards, can impact a station's FPR score. The BAR's oversight extends to the individual inspectors, who receive performance data through inspector report cards. These report cards assist inspectors in improving their skills and help stations make informed decisions about their employees.The additional oversight and more comprehensive testing at STAR stations ensure the accuracy of smog test results and promote environmental compliance. These stations are equipped and authorized to handle more complex cases, such as new vehicles or those with high emissions. While the testing process at STAR stations may take longer, it provides a more thorough evaluation of a vehicle's emissions, ensuring that only the most stringent standards are met.Only certain types of vehicles are eligible for testing at a STAR station; typically, these are new vehicles or those identified as high emitters The STAR program was created to improve the overall quality of Smog Check inspections and help states meet their required emissions reductions. Only certain types of vehicles are eligible for testing at a STAR station. STAR stations can conduct both regular and STAR smog checks. If a vehicle owner is required only to get a standard smog check, they can go to any smog check station.The State of California generally uses three criteria to determine which vehicles should be required to go to a STAR station: Gross polluters, High Emitter Profile, and Random sampling. Vehicles that have failed a previous smog inspection and have high emissions readings will be required to go to a STAR station. The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) has identified certain types of vehicles as having a high chance of failing the smog inspection. These vehicles will be required to visit a STAR station for smog testing. In addition to vehicles targeted for STAR station testing, the BAR will also pick a random sample of all vehicles registered in California that are driven on public roadways. Owners of the vehicles identified at random have no choice but to go to a STAR station for smog testing.There are two types of STAR smog stations: STAR Test Only Centers, which are licensed only to conduct smog tests, and STAR Test & Repair Centers, which are authorized to both conduct smog checks and conduct smog check repairs. STAR stations are subject to additional oversight and review by the BAR, and they conduct more strenuous smog testing. If a vehicle owner is required to get a standard smog check, they can go to any smog check station. If they are required to go through a STAR smog check, they'll go to a STAR station. A STAR smog check is more thorough than a standard smog check. Not every vehicle needs to be tested at a STAR station. In California, certain smog check stations have chosen to participate in the STAR program run by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR). STAR stations are subject to additional oversight and review by the BAR and conduct more comprehensive and strenuous smog testing.There are two types of STAR smog stations: STAR Test-Only Centers and STAR Test and Repair Centers. STAR Test and Repair Centres are authorised to conduct smog checks and repairs on vehicles that do not pass the smog test. These centres can perform all the tests required to certify your vehicle, and if your vehicle does not pass, they can also conduct the necessary repairs.STAR Test and Repair Centres are equipped to handle vehicles that fail Smog Checks due to excessively high emissions levels or those with the greatest likelihood of failing their next inspection. They can also handle vehicles that require retesting. If your vehicle falls into one of these categories, you must take it to a STAR Test and Repair Centre.STAR stations are not required to post their certification information prominently, unlike smog check stations. FPR scores, which are a key performance measure for STAR stations, are updated every six months in January and July. The STAR Report Card provides station and inspector performance measure scores and related information, including pass/fail results. The report card is designed to help stations monitor their performance and maintain STAR certification, while also assisting inspectors in improving their individual performance.The report card includes short-term performance measures, which are calculated every month and provide a simple evaluation of recent performance. These include Test Deviations, Similar Vehicle Failure Rate (SVFR), and Incorrect Gear Selection during the ASM test. However, pass/fail decisions are only made on a calendar-quarter basis.The Follow-up Pass Rate (FPR) is a long-term performance measure that evaluates whether vehicles previously certified by a station or inspector are passing their current inspection cycle at a higher or lower rate than expected. FPR scores are updated every six months, in January and July, and range from zero to one. A score of zero indicates that performance is below average, while a score of one reflects above-average performance.Specific behaviours that can impact an FPR score include not identifying functional inspection failures, such as issues with the fuel cap, ignition timing, or low-pressure fuel evaporative emissions. Entering incorrect vehicle parameters to generate more lenient emission standards or reduce vehicle weight loading during an ASM test can also affect the FPR score.The STAR Report Card also details "incidents" where the inspection results indicate that the inspector followed incorrect test procedures. Stations and inspectors have the opportunity to challenge incidents they believe have been incorrectly identified, by providing a specific statement of explanation with references to industry-recognised vehicle data sources.Frequently asked questions A smog check station is a location authorised by the DMV to perform basic smog tests on vehicles. A STAR station is an authorised testing centre that can perform all the tests required to certify your vehicle. Some vehicles are required to take a Smog Check at a STAR station. This includes vehicles that fail Smog Checks due to excessively high emissions levels, and vehicles with the greatest likelihood of failing their next inspection based on Smog Check history and other data. You should receive a DMV renewal notice that will tell you if you are required to visit a STAR station for a smog test. There are two types of STAR smog stations: Test and Repair, which are authorised to conduct smog check repairs, and Test Only Centres, which are licensed only to conduct smog tests. If you go to a Test and Repair centre, your vehicle can be repaired if it doesn't pass the smog test. As a vehicle owner, you're probably familiar with the concept of smog checks, which are mandated by the state of California to help control air pollution. But did you know that there are two types of smog check stations: regular and STAR certified? In this blog post, we'll take a closer look at what it means to be a STAR certified smog check station and what you can expect when you visit one. What is a STAR certified smog check station? STAR stands for "Smog Check Test-Only and Test-and-Repair," which are two types of smog check stations that are authorized to perform tests on vehicles. The STAR program was created by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to improve the accuracy and reliability of smog checks. To become a STAR certified smog check station, a facility must meet certain criteria and pass an inspection by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR). STAR certified stations are held to higher performance standards than regular smog check stations, and they must participate in ongoing training and quality control programs to maintain their certification. What can you expect from a STAR certified smog check station? When you visit a STAR certified smog check station like AB Smog Check and Repair, you can expect a thorough and accurate smog check that meets the highest standards of quality and reliability. Here are some of the key features of a STAR certified smog check: State-of-the-art equipment: STAR certified stations use the latest technology to perform smog checks, including computerized diagnostic tools and emissions testing equipment that is regularly calibrated and maintained to ensure accurate results. Trained and certified technicians: All technicians at a STAR certified station are required to undergo rigorous training and certification to ensure that they have the knowledge and expertise to perform smog checks accurately and reliably. High standards of quality control: STAR certified stations are subject to regular inspections and audits to ensure that they are following all relevant laws and regulations, and that their equipment and processes meet the highest standards of quality and reliability. Faster and easier testing: Because STAR certified stations are held to higher standards of efficiency and accuracy, you can typically expect faster and easier testing than at a regular smog check station. By choosing a STAR certified smog check station like AB Smog Check and Repair, you can be confident that your vehicle is being tested by experienced professionals using state-of-the-art equipment and technology. In conclusion, smog checks are an important part of protecting air quality in California, and choosing a STAR certified smog check station like AB Smog Check and Repair can help ensure that your vehicle is being tested accurately and reliably. Contact us today to schedule your next smog check or for any other auto repair needs. Related California's Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) licenses automotive repair stations to conduct SMOG tests and repairs. The state also offers special licenses to certain smog check stations that opt to be part of the STAR Program. For vehicle owners, the difference between a smog check and a STAR smog check can be confusing. Below, we clarify the difference between regular smog check stations and STAR stations, and the services they provide. If you are a station owner, reach out to a professional smog check license defense and STAR invalidation lawyer for help defending against BAR investigations or customer complaints. Smog Test vs. STAR Test California drivers are required to get regular smog tests for their vehicles. Some drivers are required to visit a STAR station for a smog test, according to the DMV's renewal notice. Many drivers are confused by the difference and worry that it may be more expensive, more inconvenient, or indicate that something is wrong with their vehicle. Smog tests can be conducted at a wide variety of smog check stations. Certain smog check stations, however, have chosen to participate in the BAR's STAR program. A STAR smog station is subject to additional oversight and review by the BAR, and they conduct more strenuous smog testing. There are two types of STAR smog stations: STAR Test Only Centers, which are licensed only to conduct smog tests; and STAR Test & Repair Centers, which are authorized to both conduct smog checks and to conduct smog check repairs. STAR stations can conduct both regular and STAR smog checks. If a vehicle owner is required only to get a standard smog check, they can go to any smog check station. If they are required to go through a STAR smog check, they'll go to a STAR station. A STAR smog check is more thorough than a standard smog check. Which Vehicles are Selected for a STAR Smog Check? Not every vehicle needs to be tested at a STAR station. Many vehicles can be tested at a regular smog check station. Certain vehicle owners, however, may be asked to conduct a special test at a STAR station. The State of California generally uses three criteria to determine which vehicles should be required to go to a STAR station: Gross polluters. Vehicles that have failed a previous smog inspection and that have high emissions readings will be required to go to a STAR station. High Emitter Profile. The BAR has identified certain types of vehicles as having a high chance of failing the smog inspection. These vehicles will be required to visit a STAR station for smog testing. Random sampling. In addition to vehicles targeted for STAR station testing, the BAR will also pick a random sample of all vehicles registered in California that are driven on public roadways. Much like the "random search" at the airport TSA, owners of the vehicles identified at the random sample have no choice but to go to a STAR station for smog testing. Call Smog Check License Defense Attorneys Rounds & Sutter for Help Protecting Your Smog Check Business Southern California For experienced, effective, and thorough help with your California BAR hearing, smog check license or other BAR license issues, reach out to the Ventura smog check license defense lawyers Rounds & Sutter at 805-650-7100. Page 2 California's Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) licenses automotive repair stations to conduct SMOG tests and repairs. The state also offers special licenses to certain smog check stations that opt to be part of the STAR Program. For vehicle owners, the difference between a smog check and a STAR smog check can be confusing. Below, we clarify the difference between regular smog check stations and STAR stations, and the services they provide. If you are a station owner, reach out to a professional smog check license defense and STAR invalidation lawyer for help defending against BAR investigations or customer complaints. 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