

Vehicle Industry News

VIN 2025-01

VSSI Program Enhancements

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New Information

This memo supersedes VIN 2024-14 Vehicle Safety Systems Inspection Program. Changes to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Virtual Clerk System (utilized by Business Partner Automation [BPA] Program participants) were implemented to allow an inquiry to the Department of Consumer Affairs Vehicle Safety System Inspection (VSSI) database. A new link between the Virtual Clerk System and BAR was established to electronically verify VSSI certificate status when processing specified transactions.

NOTE:

1. Effective December 27, 2024, paper Brake and Light certificates will no longer be accepted for initial transactions.
2. If the originating transaction is dated on or before December 26, 2024, and a paper brake/light certificate is presented, BPA participants **must** contact their First Line Service Provider (FLSP) for guidance.
3. Only **one** electronic VSSI certificate is issued by BAR (not two separate Brake and Light certificates). The latest certificate results that reflect a “Pass” result is acceptable.
4. The Report of Deposit of Fees (RDF) code ‘F’ description will continue to display “Brake/Light Certificate” in the system and on the customer receipt.

Procedures

Continue to follow existing procedures in the *Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual* for Miscellaneous Originals Chapter 7, Transfers Chapter 11, Off-Highway Vehicles Chapter 15, Salvage - Nonrepairable – Junk Vehicles Chapter 19, and Permits and Decals Chapter 25 when reregistering vehicles that have been declared junk, salvage, or transactions requiring a VSSI.

If the below error messages are displayed in Virtual Clerk, BPA program participants should contact their FLSP for guidance.

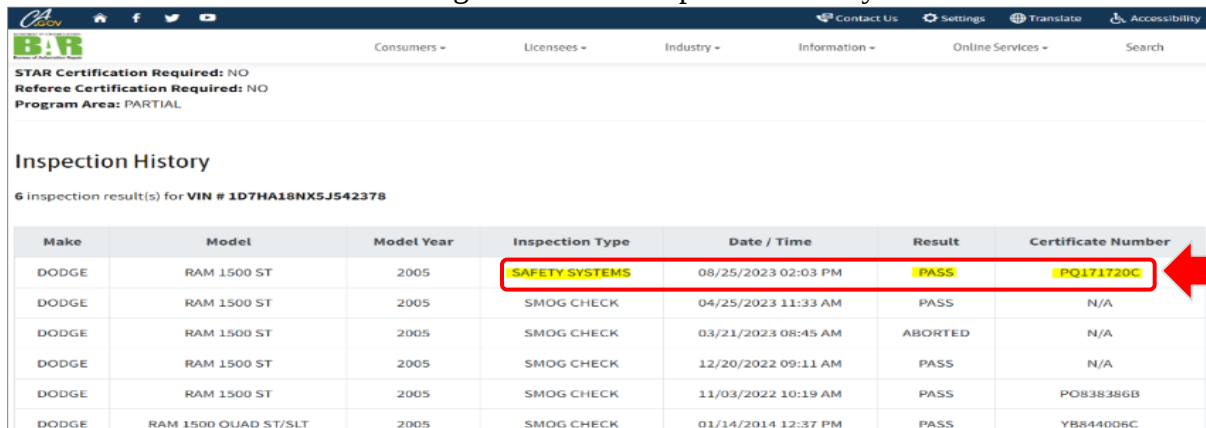
NOTE:

1. Transactions may proceed if the D447 error message displays and RDF is selected.
 - D447 BAR SAFETY SYSTEMS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUIRED
 - Q023 CNA - SHORT TERM (BAR SAFETY SYSTEMS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE)
2. Transactions impacted by the changes are limited to the following.
 - C10/C11 – Revived Junk/Revived Salvage (Original/Clearing)
 - F00/F01 – Transfer of Registered Owner/Revived Salvage with CA Title/Clearing

Procedures, *continued***IMPORTANT:**

1. Paper certificates issued on and after September 28, 2024, will **not** be accepted.
2. If the originating transaction is dated on or before December 26, 2024, and a paper brake/light certificate is presented, BPA participants must contact their FLSP for guidance.
3. The VSSI Certificate exemption, due to distance from an inspection facility, was discontinued. A Statement of Facts (REG 256) from an automotive repair shop attesting to the vehicle safety systems requirements, is **no** longer acceptable.
4. Trailers with a manufacturer's GVWR under 3,000 lbs. are exempt from VSSI requirements. BPA participants must contact their FLSP for guidance.
5. VSSI history can be found on the BAR website at **bar.ca.gov/inspection**. Key in the vehicle identification number (VIN) for the most accurate results; query using the vehicle license plate number is discouraged given that it can change. A "PASS" VSSI result **must** display a "Certificate number" on the BAR Inspection History screen print. See Figure 1.
6. VSSI and Smog Inspection history can be found on the same website, however, each program and registration clearing requirements will vary.
7. VSSI test results are **not** available (on the BAR website) for inspections completed the same day. However, VSSI inspection results can be verified electronically with the BAR query and are available immediately (upon inspection completion).
8. One "Pass" electronic VSSI certificate, issued by BAR, replaces both the brake and light certificates.

Figure 1 – BAR Inspection History



Make	Model	Model Year	Inspection Type	Date / Time	Result	Certificate Number
DODGE	RAM 1500 ST	2005	SAFETY SYSTEMS	08/25/2023 02:03 PM	PASS	PQ171720C
DODGE	RAM 1500 ST	2005	SMOG CHECK	04/25/2023 11:33 AM	PASS	N/A
DODGE	RAM 1500 ST	2005	SMOG CHECK	03/21/2023 08:45 AM	ABORTED	N/A
DODGE	RAM 1500 ST	2005	SMOG CHECK	12/20/2022 09:11 AM	PASS	N/A
DODGE	RAM 1500 ST	2005	SMOG CHECK	11/03/2022 10:19 AM	PASS	PO838386B
DODGE	RAM 1500 QUAD ST/SLT	2005	SMOG CHECK	01/14/2014 12:37 PM	PASS	YB844006C

Background

Previously, a certificate of compliance (Brake and Lamp) form, issued by BAR, was required during vehicle registration, pursuant to *Vehicle Code* (VC) §11519, for revived junk/salvage transactions and any transaction requiring a certificate. For the paper process, DMV collected the certificate and retained copies when registration documents were sent to headquarters.

AB 471 (Ch. 372; Statutes 2021) automated the paper verification and VSSI compliance is verified electronically through the BAR query during the vehicle registration process.

Effective December 27, 2024, VSSI verification is fully electronic and paper brake and light certificates are **no** longer accepted.

References

Business and Professions Code, Sec. 9, Article 6.5 Vehicle Safety Systems Inspection, 9888.6

Vehicle Code §11519

Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual, Chapters 7, 15, 19, and 25

Distribution

Notification of this memo (available at **dmv.ca.gov** under Vehicle Industry Services) was made via the California DMV Automated Email Alert System in February 2025 to:

- Dealers
- Registration Services

Contact

Direct questions related to this memo as follows:

- BPA program participants should contact their FLSP.
- All other inquiries should contact DMV Help Desk at (916) 657-6567.