

# Data Acquisition Device

## Q&A's for Beta Stations

The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) has prepared the following questions and answers to provide direction and clarification to Smog Check stations participating in Beta Testing of the On-Board Diagnostic Inspection System (OIS) Data Acquisition Device (DAD) hardware.

### **Will participation in Beta Testing affect my STAR score?**

No. Data collected during OIS Beta Testing will not be used to calculate STAR scores. This is true for both the short-term performance measures and the Follow-up Pass Rate (FPR).

### **What pass/fail standards will the OIS use during Beta Testing?**

During Beta Testing, the OIS will have the same OBD II pass/fail standards (including readiness monitor criteria) as the current BAR-97. BAR is planning to reduce the number of allowed readiness monitors on both the OIS and the BAR-97 after the program officially begins.

### **What vehicles are subject to OIS inspections during Beta Testing?**

During the Beta Testing period, participating stations will perform OIS inspections on the vehicles listed in the [2013 Smog Check Manual](#).

In addition:

- OIS Beta stations will be inspecting 1996 to 1999 model-year gasoline-powered vehicles equipped with OBD II.
- After Beta Testing ends, 1996 to 1999 model-year gasoline powered OBD II vehicles must be inspected on a BAR-97 EIS.
- Hybrid-powered vehicles will not be included in Beta Testing, as DMV is not mailing renewal notices until a later date.

### **What inspection procedures should be used when performing OIS Beta Testing?**

Follow the inspection procedures specified in the [2013 Smog Check Manual](#).

### **Is a BAR-97 inspection required on all OIS inspected vehicles?**

No. However, if a vehicle fails for no OBD II communication using the DAD, BAR is requesting the station perform a BAR-97 test on the vehicle to confirm the validity of the DAD's results. The BAR-97 test should be conducted immediately and at no additional cost to the vehicle owner. Include any information you may have as to why the vehicle failed to communicate with the DAD in the OIS "Comments" section at the end of the inspection.

### **May I recommend the BAR-97 inspection over the OIS inspection to certain customers?**

Yes, if the BAR-97 inspection best serves the needs of the customer. For example, it is good business practice to explain to the consumer a possible consequence of their vehicle receiving a BAR-OIS inspection after a recent tailpipe failure or emission related repair. Under this circumstance, a retest on the BAR-97 may be more appropriate since the vehicle may be subject to failure on a future BAR-97 inspection after previously passing a BAR-OIS inspection.

### **Am I allowed to abort an OIS inspection during Beta Testing?**

Since aborts are counted against the DAD vendor's vehicle OBD II connectivity rate, aborts are highly discouraged. However, if it is absolutely necessary to abort an OIS inspection, you must include an explanation in the "Comments" section at the end of the inspection.

### **Are State Referee services available to OIS tested vehicles during Beta Testing?**

Yes, Referee services will be available during Beta Testing.

### **Can a Beta Testing station continue using their OIS after their DAD vendor receives BAR certification?**

Yes. Beta Testing stations may continue using their OIS after their DAD vendor receives BAR certification. Follow the [2013 Smog Check Manual](#) for vehicles subject to OIS testing. Gasoline powered vehicles from 1996 through 1999 model-years will revert back to a BAR-97 inspection.

### **When will BAR mandate OIS use?**

BAR will mandate OIS use on March 9, 2015.

### **Can Smog Check certificates be purchased with the OIS?**

Yes. Books of 50 Smog Check certificates may be purchased electronically using the BAR-OIS software.

### **How can OIS Beta stations communicate with BAR during Beta Testing?**

BAR encourages Beta stations to contact the BAR Industry Help Desk at 866.860.8509 or [BAR.IndustryHelpDesk@dca.ca.gov](mailto:BAR.IndustryHelpDesk@dca.ca.gov) with questions, comments, or issues. In addition, there is a "Comments" section at the end of the OIS test that can be used to communicate any issues to BAR. It is important for users to enter a comment when experiencing no OBD II communication with a vehicle, or when experiencing other OIS software issues.

BAR staff may contact you to see if you are experiencing any problems. This is an opportunity to provide feedback to improve equipment and software operations.

## **Software & Equipment**

### **In addition to a DAD, what additional equipment is required for a BAR-OIS?**

If only purchasing a DAD, the following minimum standards apply to off-the-shelf equipment that is necessary to build an OIS:

- **Computer:** A computer equipped with a Windows 7 (32 or 64 bit) or Windows 8 (32 or 64 bit) operating system software and Microsoft Internet Explorer version 9 or 10. Windows 8.x RT will not work and Windows 8.1 is not acceptable at this time.
- **Bar Code Scanner:** A wired or wireless hand-held type bar code scanner capable of connecting to the computer (e.g., USB connection) and can scan at least 1-d (linear type) bar codes. The bar code scanner must be compatible with the Windows operating system you are using. Ask the bar code scanner vendor to confirm that the scanner meets the above requirements. If desired, a 2-d bar code (square type) scanner may be purchased to scan late model-year vehicle VINs.

BAR has successfully used the following bar code scanners with the BAR-OIS Software:

- Honeywell MS9520 (1-d, wired)
- Symbol LS2208 (1-d, wired)
- Symbol LS4208 (1-d, wired)
- Data Logic Quickscan M2130 (1-d, wireless)
- Motorola LI4278 (1-d, wireless)
- Wasp WDI-4500 (2-d, wired)
- Hewlett Packard HP 4430 (2-d, wired)

In addition to the scanners above, DAD vendors may offer other makes and models.

- Printer: Any type of wired or wireless printer (laserjet, inkjet, etc.) using 8 ½" x 11" plain paper. The printer must be compatible with the Windows operating system.

### How do I get started?

If your station is chosen to participate in Beta Testing, you will need to acquire a DAD from a Beta vendor and the other required equipment described above, a high speed Internet connection, a unique email address for each user, and review the following BAR-OIS training modules available on [BAR's website](#):

- OIS Registration
- OIS Software Download

### How do I get the Smog Check software?

BAR will email Beta stations a Web link to access the BAR-OIS Registration and Download website. After completing the registration process, Beta stations should begin conducting inspections using the OIS. Additional installation files may be required for your DAD and will be supplied by the DAD vendor.

## Internet Connection

### What type of Internet connection is required to run the OIS?

As with any web-based application, a faster Internet connection will increase the speed of the OIS. BAR has successfully tested the OIS with Internet connection speeds as slow as business class DSL.

Since the OIS does not allow for off-line testing, a reliable Internet connection is critical to ensure that your ability to perform inspections is not disrupted.

BAR recommends that stations work with their Internet Service Providers to ensure appropriate Internet connectivity.

Please refer to the following considerations when making decisions regarding your Internet connection service:

- The connection speed claimed by most Internet service providers is the maximum speed possible. It is unlikely that you will get the maximum advertised speed.
- The connection speed decreases when the same Internet connection is used for other shop applications (e.g. Mitchell On-Demand, Alldata, parts suppliers, etc.).
- The connection speed decreases when the same Internet connection is used for Wi-Fi connectivity for other users, such as customers.
- Multiple Internet connections from different service providers can be used to minimize service interruptions.

## OIS Testing Issues

### Will the OIS pass a vehicle but not issue a certificate?

Yes. In certain circumstances, the OIS Software will not issue a certificate of compliance on a passing vehicle. Typical scenarios include the OIS detects a DAD change during the test, or the vehicle does not need a certificate (e.g., government fleet and military personnel who are not registered in California).