

BAR Finalizes Vehicle Storage Regulations

The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) has finalized amendments to its vehicle storage regulations package after multiple workshops. The regulations will establish new registration, disclosure, and customer notification requirements for automotive repair dealers (ARDs) that charge vehicle storage fees following accident-related repairs or the recovery of stolen vehicles.

Under the regulations, “vehicle storage” will be defined as an ARD’s possession of a customer’s vehicle upon completion of repairs, or when repairs have not been performed, as referenced in Business and Professions Code section 9880.1(k). Key requirements include:

- ARDs that charge vehicle storage fees will be required to report their maximum daily storage rate for a non-electric passenger vehicle to BAR as part of the registration process.
- Dealers with multiple storage rates will be required to report the highest rate charged.
- The reported maximum daily rate can only be changed once per registration cycle, with written notice provided to BAR.
- ARDs charging storage fees will be required to post their daily storage rates, including the reported maximum daily rate, in a conspicuous location.
 - The notice must be visible, legible, and located adjacent to where customers are served.
- Before assessing vehicle storage fees, an ARD will be required to provide notice to the customer or the customer's authorized representative that storage fees are being charged, the amount of the daily storage fee, the date storage fees will begin to accrue, and that the customer has the right (upon payment for repairs, if any) to retrieve the vehicle to avoid additional storage charges.
- ARDs will be required to document when and how the notice was provided and retain records demonstrating compliance with the notification requirements.
- Daily storage rates will be required to reflect costs associated with storing vehicles.
- The proposal indicates that negotiated storage rates with third parties may not be used as the basis for establishing the posted storage rate.

These regulations will impose new administrative, recordkeeping, signage, and customer communication obligations on repair facilities that charge vehicle storage fees. Dealers and repair facilities should review their current storage fee practices, customer notification procedures, registration information, and posted disclosures to evaluate potential compliance impacts.

The package is being reviewed by BAR’s legal team and will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for final approval and adoption. The anticipated effective date will be January 1, 2027. CNCDA will continue to monitor the status and will report on any updates.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the CNCDA Legal Team at 916-441-2599 or legalhotline@cncda.org.