



STATEMENT

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USE OF NEW AFTERMARKET (IMITATION) COLLISION PARTS AND AIRBAG SYSTEMS

DEARBORN, Mich. – Ford Motor Company is confident about the performance of airbag systems it designs and installs in its vehicles. However, Ford cannot be confident that its airbag systems and components will perform properly on vehicles that have been repaired with new aftermarket (imitation) collision parts.

Testing by Ford has shown imitation collision parts to be substandard in their fit and structural integrity. To our knowledge, no comprehensive testing has been conducted to verify that the performance of imitation collision parts -- particularly crucial front end parts, such as hoods, bumper reinforcements and header panels -- in front-end crashes will be compatible with Ford airbag systems.

Genuine Ford Original Equipment collision replacement parts are the same as those used on new vehicles, which have been crash tested and meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Because so little is known about the effect of imitation parts on airbag system and component integrity, Ford believes genuine Ford collision replacement parts should be used for collision repairs to protect the interests of both collision repairers and vehicle owners.

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Collision Repair Note

Recycled, salvaged, aftermarket and reconditioned parts (including body parts, wheels and safety restraint components) are not authorized by Ford. Departure from the instructions provided in the Ford Workshop Manual, including alternate repair methods or the use of substitute components, risks compromising crash safety. Failure to follow these instructions may adversely affect structural integrity and crash safety performance, which could result in serious personal injury to vehicle occupants in a crash.

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