



## **HELP SAVE LIVES BY STOPPING THE PROLIFERATION OF DANGEROUS COUNTERFEIT AIRBAGS IN ALASKA**

### **AUTOMOBILE AIRBAGS SAVE LIVES**

Airbag systems are an essential and complicated component of modern vehicle safety systems. Federal regulations require automobiles to be equipped with several airbags throughout the cabin and dictate how each must respond in the event of a collision. The airbag system is designed so that each individual airbag works in concert with the others to provide optimal protection for all passengers. This is possible because in the milliseconds after an impact occurs, sensors throughout the vehicle register critical information about the collision, such as the speed of the vehicle, the point of impact and the size, weight and position of each passenger. This information is used to determine which airbags to deploy, in what order to deploy them, and the level of force at which each are deployed. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that this advanced technology has saved the lives of tens of thousands of Americans over the past two decades.

### **COUNTERFEIT AIRBAGS ENDANGER PEOPLE'S LIVES**

In order to provide this level of protection, the entire system needs to work as it was designed and a single counterfeit airbag or airbag component can compromise the entire system. Unfortunately, foreign and domestic counterfeiters are flooding the market with cheap and ineffective knock-offs in an attempt to turn a profit by defrauding unknowing consumers. In many cases these counterfeits are filled with sawdust, newspaper or nothing at all. Others are quite literally bombs, as can be seen in this [NHTSA](#) test video. In 2012 NHTSA released a [consumer safety advisory](#) warning the public about this growing problem.

### **COUNTERFEIT AIRBAGS ARE A SERIOUS PROBLEM**

Over the past few years, tens of thousands of counterfeit airbags have been confiscated by federal agents in raids across the country. Unfortunately, federal law enforcement agencies have limited authority to combat this problem as many fake airbags do not violate federal trademark law. As a result, several thousand dangerous airbags are able to enter the stream of commerce each year where they are sold over the internet and installed in the vehicles of unknowing Alaska motorists, putting their lives at risk. These knockoffs have resulted in deaths and injuries across the country, one of which was highlighted in a [CBS News story](#) from last year.

### **THE SOLUTION: OUTLAW FAKE AIRBAGS IN ALASKA**

State law in Alaska currently does not prohibit the instillation or reinstallation of airbags that do not meet federal safety standards, nor does it address the truly bad actors who knowingly and intentionally import, manufacture, sell or offer these products for sale to unknowing consumers. The automotive industry, in partnership with other stakeholders strongly supports enacting legislation that would give state and federal law enforcement agents the ability to confiscate these products when they are discovered, before they can put Alaska motorists at risk.

Over the past several years, a coalition of automakers, insurers, law enforcement professionals, safety advocates and other stakeholders have worked together to enact similar legislation in 25 states (AL, CA, CT, FL, GA, HI, IA, IN, LA, MA, MD, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA) with overwhelming bipartisan support. We respectfully ask for your support in enacting this legislation in Alaska as well.

*For more information, please visit [A2C2.com](http://A2C2.com) or contact [Craig Orlan](#) in Honda's government relations office at (202) 661.4400 or [craig\\_orlan@ahm.honda.com](mailto:craig_orlan@ahm.honda.com)*