

HONDA

HELP SAVE LIVES BY STOPPING THE PROLIFERATION OF DANGEROUS COUNTERFEIT AIRBAGS IN VERMONT

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 passengers. 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

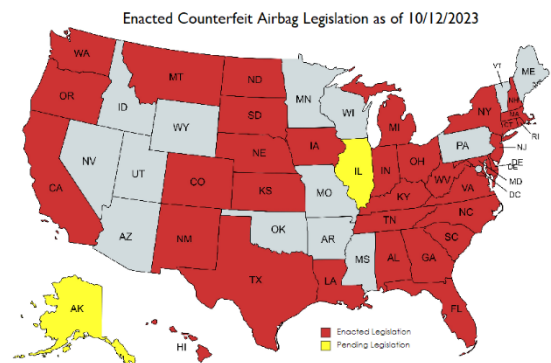
To provide this level of protection, the entire airbag system needs to work as designed. A single counterfeit airbag or airbag component can compromise the entire system. Unfortunately, foreign and domestic counterfeiters are flooding the market with cheap and ineffective knock-offs in an attempt to turn a profit by defrauding unknowing consumers. In many cases, these counterfeits are filled with debris; such as sawdust, newspaper, or in some cases nothing at all. Others are quite literally bombs, as can be seen in this [NHTSA](#) test video.

COUNTERFEIT AIRBAGS ARE A SERIOUS PROBLEM

Over the past several 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 or hazmat laws. 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 Vermont motorists, putting their lives at risk. These knockoffs have resulted in deaths and injuries across the country.

THE SOLUTION: OUTLAW FAKE AIRBAGS IN VERMONT

Current law in Vermont prohibits the installation or reinstallation of airbags that do not meet federal safety standards but does nothing to address the truly bad actors who knowingly & intentionally import, manufacture, sell, and offer these products for sale to unknowing consumers. Existing law also fails to properly define the term "airbag" making it very difficult to enforce. The automotive industry, in partnership with other stakeholders is seeking legislation to close these loopholes and give state and federal law enforcement agencies the ability to work together and confiscate these products when they are discovered, before they can put Vermont motorists at risk.



A coalition of automakers, insurers, law enforcement professionals, safety advocates, and others have worked together to enact similar legislation in 34 states with overwhelming bipartisan support. We respectfully ask for your support in also enacting this legislation in Vermont as well.

For more information about the dangers of counterfeit auto parts, please visit www.A2C2.com
For more information about this legislation please contact Craig Orlan in Honda's government relations office at (202) 300-8999 or by email at craig_orlan@na.honda.com