

General Motors Position on the Installation of Stolen or Used Salvage Air Bag Systems and Components.

Due to the critical nature of the design of Supplemental Inflatable Restraint Systems (SIR) aka air bag systems, GM does not support the use of any stolen, used salvage, or imitation parts for repair. Only new genuine GM warranted parts should be used in repair.

Proper operation of the Supplemental Inflatable Restraint (SIR) system requires that any repairs to the vehicle return it to the original production configuration and performance. Never use SIR parts from another vehicle. The reasons for this policy and practice within GM include the following:

Occupant Protection

Air bag system components are carefully developed and specifically tuned to interact in a precise fashion that produces optimum performance. Corresponding SIR system components from other models may appear similar from the outside, may even fit the vehicle, but different internal elements or calibration may result in degraded restraint performance.

Regulatory Compliance

All GM vehicles are designed and built to meet or exceed all applicable motor vehicle safety standards. Use of SIR components other than those specified could result in degraded occupant protection performance and a vehicle configuration that no longer meets applicable safety standards. A repair establishment that renders a regulated safety system inoperative violates the Safety Act and becomes liable accordingly.

Reliability

SIR components are designed, manufactured and installed to assure reliable performance for the life of the vehicle. Reuse of salvage components brings into question the conditions under which the components were obtained and stored prior to use. Components could have been damaged or stored under unfavorable conditions that could compromise performance on reliability.

In summary, new GM parts remain General Motors' recommendation on collision repair involving air bags systems and components. These new parts are consistent with the vehicle factory warranty and extended warranty programs which the customer has paid for either in the price of the vehicle or as a separate service contract. The air bag system can best be returned to designed and tested production standards when new original equipment parts are used.

GM stands behind its warranties and requests written indemnity to be on file when shops install used salvage air bag systems or components. Such disclosures, as well as written warranties on used salvage parts ensures the proper accountability for current and future vehicle owners.

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