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40 Passenger airbag inspection – used imported vehicles from Japan

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Background

Since 2013, a number of vehicle manufacturers have initiated recalls to replace frontal airbags manufactured by Takata due to a risk of incorrect deployment that can result in the release of metal shrapnel from the airbag inflator unit. Due to the number of affected vehicles, the supply of replacement parts has been delayed in a number of cases, resulting in lengthy delay before recalls can be completed.

The NZ Transport Agency has been made aware of a practice in Japan where front passenger airbags have been disconnected by the vehicle manufacturer's agent as an interim measure pending the availability of parts needed to carry out the recall on the vehicle. The disconnection process involves fitting an electronic component to simulate the presence of the airbag so that the warning light operates as normal. A number of vehicles with disconnected airbags have already been imported into New Zealand in this condition, and the influx of vehicles in this condition is likely to continue in the foreseeable future.

Land Transport Rule: Frontal Impact 2001 requires that frontal airbags and airbag warning lights must not be rendered inoperable. As such, vehicles that have had their airbags disconnected cannot be entry certified.

Since version 1 of this bulletin, the Transport Agency has received additional information on the vehicles that may have had their passenger airbags disconnected, and how to determine whether a recall has been completed on an affected vehicle. This enables the range of vehicles requiring physical inspection to be limited to those identified in the attached Table 40-1-1. This is a change from the previous version of this bulletin: the list is now a list of **included** models that must be checked.

Action required

For used vehicles from Japan identified in Table 40-1-1, entry certifiers are required to visually verify that the front passenger airbags are present and connected to the SRS system.

This is to be achieved by accessing the airbag unit and checking that it is properly connected to the SRS wiring loom, ensuring that there is no evidence of tampering and that no devices designed to defeat or 'fool' the SRS self-diagnostic function are present. If the airbag is disconnected, it must be reconnected before the vehicle is entry certified.

SRS system wiring and plugs are yellow in colour. Below are images of a passenger airbag that has been disconnected with a resistor put in place to defeat the self-diagnostic system (Figure 40-1-2), and another with the airbag properly connected (Figure 40-1-3).

Once it has been determined that the front passenger airbag is properly connected to the SRS wiring loom, and that the SRS warning light is operating correctly, the following wording must be entered into the notes field in LANDATA:

FR PSNGR Airbag Inspected

Note: normal safe working practices must be followed for any work on airbag systems. The vehicle's battery must be disconnected at least five minutes prior to commencing work on any system involving a pyrotechnic component.

Exceptions

No visual inspection is required if there is evidence that the Takata airbag recall has already been completed on the vehicle. This can be determined by the presence of a sticker located in the driver or passenger door frame area (usually near the striker). This sticker will resemble the one in the below image, and contain the official Japanese recall campaign number. If the number on the vehicle being inspected matches one in Table 40-1-1, the recall has been completed and no visual inspection of the passenger airbag is necessary. The recall campaign numbers listed in Table 40-1-1 do not correspond to particular models, so any of the numbers listed against a make will be acceptable.

Figure 40-1-1. Airbag recall completed sticker



Figure 40-1-2. Airbag disconnected

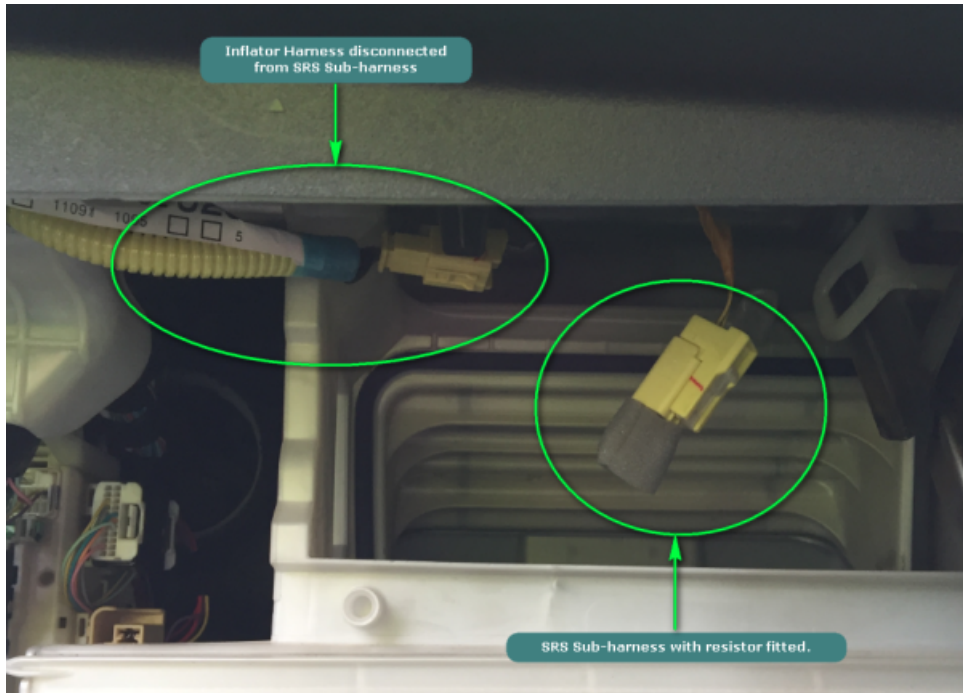


Figure 40-1-3. Airbag properly connected

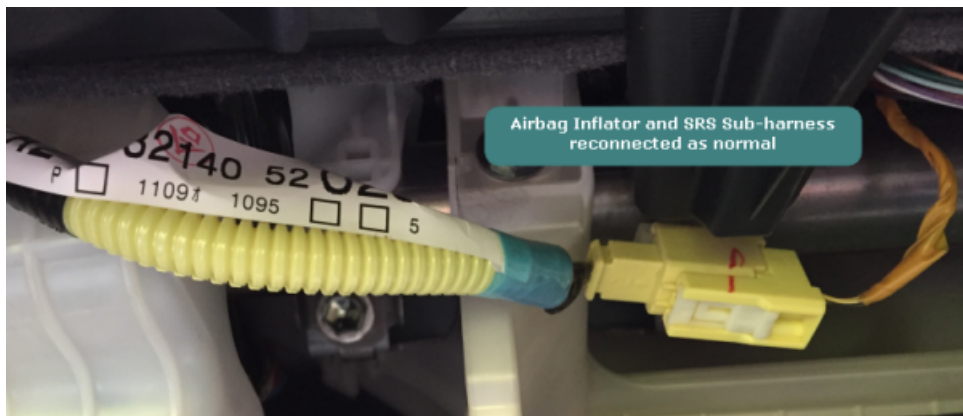


Table 40-1-1. Passenger airbag inspection – included models

The following makes and models require physical inspection of passenger airbags. This list is at a make/model/year level only, but entry certifiers have the option of using an alternative list including chassis number ranges available online at

Make	Models	Recall Campaign Numbers
Honda	ACCORD (2002-2011)	3375
	ACCORD TOUR (2008)	3493
	ACCORD TOURER (2009-2011)	3568
	ACCORD WAGON (2002-2007)	3582
	CIVIC (2005-2010)	3826
	CIVIC FERIO (2000-2005)	3889
	CIVIC GX (2004)	GAI-2058
	CIVIC HYBRID (2001-2010)	GAI-2059
	CR-V (2001-2011)	GAI-2060
	ELEMENT (2003-2005)	GAI-2127
	ELYSION (2004-2011)	GAI-2174
	ELYSION PRESTIGE (2004-2011)	GAI-2175
	FCX CLARITY (2008-2010)	GAI-2190
	FIT (2001-2011)	GAI-2348
	FIT ARIA (2002-2008)	
	FIT SHUTTLE (2011)	
	FREED (2008-2011)	
	FREED SPIKE (2010-2011)	
	INSIGHT (2008-2011)	
	INSIGHT EXCLUSIVE (2011)	
INSPIRE (2007-2011)		
LEGEND (2004-2011)		
MDX (2002-2006)		
MOBILIO (2001-2008)		
Isuzu	C M (2004-2007)	3381
	COMO (2001-2008)	3492
		3569
		3601

Make	Models	Recall Campaign Numbers
Lexus	IS 250 (2005-2011) IS 250 C (2009-2011) IS 350 (2005-2011) IS 350 C (2010-2011) IS F (2007-2011) SC430 (2005-2010)	3591 3781 3820
Mazda	ATENZA (2002-2007) RX-8 (2003-2012) BONGO (2010-2016) DEMIO (2007-2014)	3376 3579 3586 3731 3839 3840
Mitsubishi	DELICA (2010-2011) i (2005-2012) LANCER (2004-2008)	3576 3588 3839
Nissan	BLUEBIRD SYLPHY (2001-2005) CARAVAN (2001-2009) CEFIRO (2001-2002) CUBE (2001-2002) DATSUN (2001-2002) FUGA (2004-2008) LIBERTY (2001-2004) PRESAGE (2003-2009) SAFARI (2002-2007) TEANA (2002-2008) X-TRAIL (2001-2007)	3381 3492 3569 3601 3674 3839
Subaru	Impreza (2004-2007) Legacy (2003-2009)	3578 3825

Make	Models	Recall Campaign Numbers
Toyota	ALLEX (2001-2006)	3369
	Alphard (2008-2009)	3483
	ALPHARD G (2002-2008)	3563
	ALPHARD HYBRID (2003-2008)	3591
	Alphard V (2002-2008)	3592
	Auris (2006-2009)	3651
	AVENSIS (2003-2008)	3696
	AVENSIS WAGON (2003-2008)	3781
	Belta (2005-2008)	3911
	Berta (2009-2011)	
	Blade (2006-2009)	
	BREVIS (2001-2007)	
	COROLLA (2000-2006)	
	COROLLA FIELDER (2000-2009)	
	Corolla Lumion (2007-2009)	
	COROLLA RUNX (2000-2009)	
	GAIA (2001-2004)	
	IPSUM (2001-2009)	
	MARK II (2000-2004)	
	MARK II BLIT (2001-2007)	
	NOAH (2001-2009)	
	Opa (2002-2005)	
	Probox (2002-2011)	
	SOARER (2001-2005)	
	SUCCEED (2002-2011)	
	Velfire (2008-2009)	
	Verossa (2001-2004)	
	VITZ (2005-2010)	
	VOXY (2001-2009)	
	WiLL CYPHA (2002-2005)	
WiLL VS (2001-2004)		

