

OUR MISSION: Collaboration among automakers and their partners that strives to eliminate counterfeit automotive components that could harm U.S. consumers.

Glass

Counterfeit glass can shatter or displace, injuring and/or failing to protect vehicle occupants.

Laminated/tempered glass optimizes occupant safety during accidents and protects passengers from projectiles during normal driving conditions.

Headlights and Taillights

Use of high-quality materials and proper sealing methods protect connectors, wires and lenses from moisture intrusion and damage that can lead to failure or malfunction.

Genuine automotive lighting assemblies are designed for maximum light output for high-visibility driving at night or in extreme weather conditions.

Airbags

Many counterfeit airbags have been found to improperly deploy, or not deploy at all, posing a risk to vehicle occupants.

Front, side and knee airbags supplement seat belts to help slow occupant movement and protect occupants in the event of a collision. Airbags work together with other safety systems and must meet exact specifications for proper operation.

Body and Structural

Counterfeit vehicle hoods designed without crumple zones may penetrate the passenger compartment in a crash, putting vehicle occupants at greater risk.

Body components, such as bumper absorbers and body panels, are specifically designed to operate in conjunction with both structural components and vehicle supplemental restraint systems.

Keys

Counterfeit keys and key fobs made of inferior materials can experience water intrusion and durability issues, or may break prematurely. Counterfeits that exhibit substandard read range or excessive frequency response variation can unreliably program to the vehicle or fail intermittently in the field.

Keys and key fobs are designed and tested to withstand common durability challenges and adhere to strict frequency bandwidth standards to help ensure reliable entry into and operation of the vehicle.

Suspension System

Counterfeit suspension parts made of substandard materials have shown higher rates of failure, which may place drivers and passengers at risk.

A vehicle's suspension maximizes the friction between the tires and the road surface, providing steering control, good handling and ride comfort for the passengers.

Wheels

Counterfeit wheels have exhibited compromised structural integrity by cracking after hitting a pothole at just over 30 mph.

Exact specifications, materials, manufacturing methods and quality standards help ensure optimum performance.

Engine and Drivetrain

Counterfeit spark plugs can overheat and may lead to fire. Counterfeit oil filters can cause sudden engine failure.

High-volume maintenance parts, like spark plugs and oil filters, are commonly counterfeited. Spark plugs ignite the engine's fuel, providing the vehicle with power. The oil filter removes contaminants from engine oil to keep the engine clean. Composition and material quality are important for the best operation of these components.

Grilles

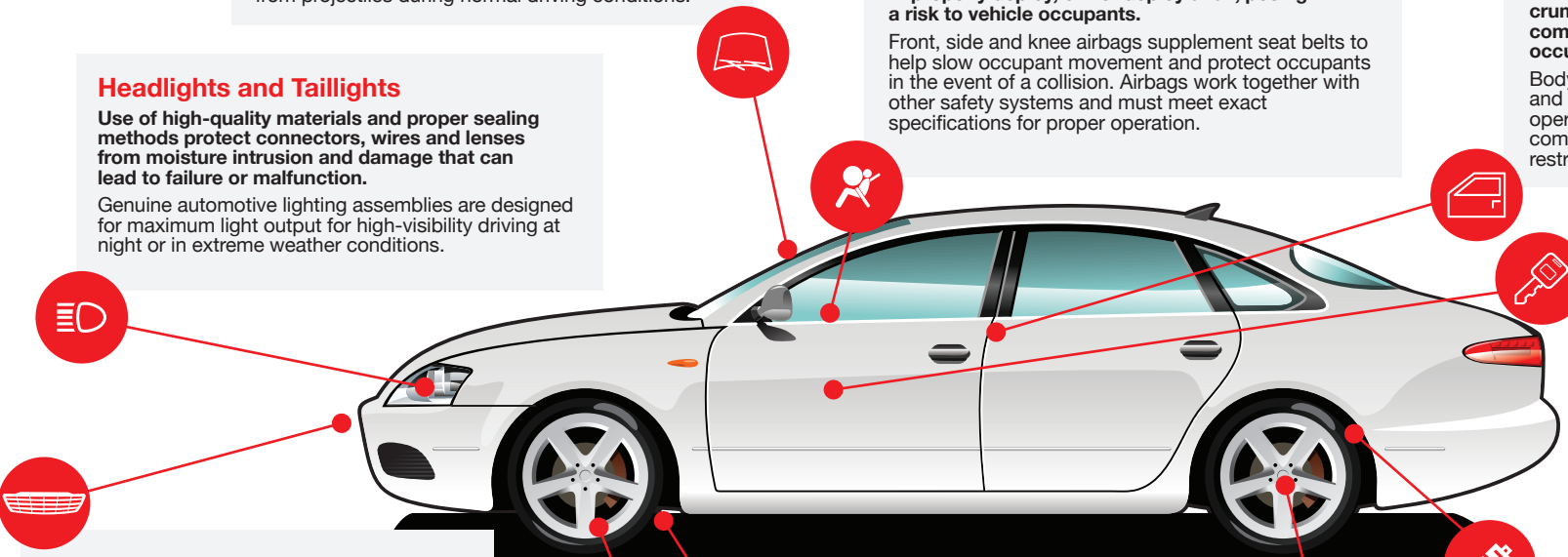
Counterfeit grilles may not properly house safety sensors that control the vehicle's supplemental restraint system (SRS) and/or other collision mitigation systems, thus rendering those systems inoperable.

Exact design, materials and manufacturing ensure that safety sensors will remain securely in place and that cooling components are protected.

Brakes

Counterfeit brake pads have been found to be made of grass clippings and sawdust, which would likely jeopardize stopping ability.

A moving vehicle carries tremendous energy and, when stopping, virtually all of it is converted into heat in the brake pads. So, brakes have to be made of materials that won't melt, such as alloys, ceramics or composites.



RESOURCES

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)-led National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) stands at the forefront of the United States Government's response to global intellectual property (IP) theft and enforcement of its international trade laws. The mission of the IPR Center is to ensure national security by protecting the public's health and safety, the U.S. economy, and our war fighters, and to stop predatory and unfair trade practices that threaten the global economy. To accomplish this goal, the IPR Center brings together 25 partner agencies, consisting of 20 key federal agencies, Interpol, Europol, City of London Police, and the governments of Canada and Mexico in a task-force setting.

Counterfeit Automotive Parts— Safety Hazard to the Public

Law enforcement has identified a trend of counterfeited automotive parts growing at an alarming rate. A counterfeit automotive part is one that bears the trademark of a legitimate and trusted brand, but was produced by another party and is usually not made to the specifications of the original equipment manufacturer. These counterfeits are produced illegally and sold at a profit sometimes to support other criminal activities. At best, these parts will not perform as well as authentic parts; at worst, they can fail catastrophically with potentially fatal consequences.

Some of the most dangerous counterfeits involve explosive elements of airbags, which can literally explode in the victim's face during an accident. Other counterfeit parts seized by law enforcement include: seat belts; oil and air filters; brake pads; brake rotors; control arms; windshields; bearings; steering linkages; ignition coils; microchips; spark plugs; wheels; solenoids; clutch housing; crankshafts; diagnostic equipment; suspension parts; and, oil pumps.



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Counterfeit Airbag Law Model Legislation:

A person shall not knowingly and intentionally manufacture, import, install, reinstall, distribute, sell, or offer for sale any device intended to replace a supplemental restraint system component in any motor vehicle if the device is a counterfeit supplemental restraint system component or a nonfunctional airbag, or does not meet federal safety requirements as provided in Section 571.208 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A person shall not knowingly and intentionally sell, install, or reinstall in a vehicle, any device that causes the vehicle's diagnostic systems to fail to warn when the vehicle is equipped with a counterfeit supplemental restraint system component or nonfunctional airbag, or when no airbag is installed.

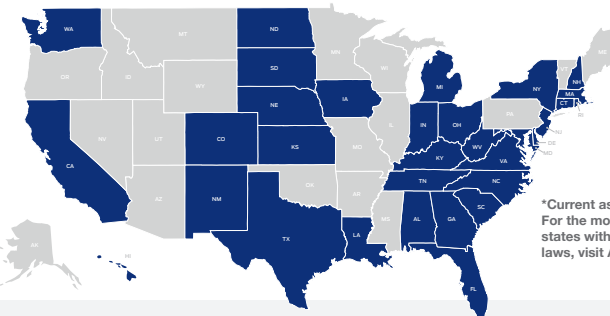
SPOTTING COUNTERFEITS

Warning Signs / Indicators of Counterfeit-Produced Parts Include:

- Obviously undervalued shipments
- Shipping documents that contain vague or inaccurate descriptions
- Missing safety guidelines
- Lack of officially licensed product logos, tags or trademark notice(s)
- Poor packaging condition
- Different-than-expected aesthetic appearance (color, size, shape) compared to OE parts
- Redundant serial numbers
- Suspicious or redundant bar codes
- Poor model/brand emblem fitments, attachments and stampings
- Poor gap/flush tolerance qualities
- No visible manufacturer's address on packages or labels
- Misspellings, incorrect fonts or incorrect logos on parts or packaging

STATES WITH COUNTERFEIT AIRBAG LAWS*

Alabama	Indiana	Nebraska	Rhode Island
California	Iowa	New Hampshire	South Carolina
Colorado	Kansas	New Jersey	South Dakota
Connecticut	Kentucky	New Mexico	Tennessee
Delaware	Louisiana	New York	Texas
Florida	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
Georgia	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Washington
Hawaii	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia



*Current as of 5/3/2023.
For the most up-to-date list of states with counterfeit airbag laws, visit A2C2.com.

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