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## ABPA Calls on Members to Pull Unsafe Parts from Shelves

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The Auto Body Parts Association (ABPA) said it is advising its entire membership base to review with its suppliers the inherent properties and testing of all structural parts including bumper reinforcements, steel bumpers, bumper brackets, radiator supports and absorbers to ensure that adequate testing is available to support that these parts perform equal to the OEM in vehicle collisions.

The aftermarket parts association says that in the event that sufficient testing is not available, the ABPA has recommended discontinuation of the production and sale of these part types as well as immediate notification to the estimating systems to eliminate these parts from their parts databases.

The action is in response to recent demonstrations by the Collision Industry Conference which showed material differences between OEM parts and their aftermarket replacements, differences that the ABPA says, "may impact the performance of structural parts in a vehicle collision."

At the November meeting of the CIC, and again at the January meeting, Toby Chess, a well-recognized industry trainer, demonstrated the stark differences in parts quality including material strength and fire resistance.

ABPA Board Chairman Charlie Hogarty said, "ABPA and the aftermarket collision parts industry are committed to working with any and all collision repair shops, insurers and related industry groups to assure the continued production and sales of collision replacement parts that are safe and of the highest quality."

National Secretary Danny Morrissey, who is part of a committee to evaluate future action which the Association can take and who was at the CIC meeting, said, "We are encouraged that Toby Chess' presentation did include positive comments on the testing program and products produced in the aftermarket by an ABPA member company."

The majority of ABPA members have long supported certification and testing programs such as the Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA) currently in place and which is currently certifying some of these part types and considering certifying other part types.

The Automotive Body Parts Association is 30 years old and now represents more than 150 separate manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of independently produced crash replacement parts which accounts for more than 75 percent of all product sold in the field.

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