

# INDUSTRY NOTICE!

## ATTENTION ALL AUTO BODY REPAIRERS AND CONSUMERS

### AFTERMARKET REPLACEMENT CRASH PARTS POSE SAFETY CONCERNS

February 4, 2010

Auto Damage Experts expressed concern over recent tests whereas the quality and safety of aftermarket (non-original/generic) replacement crash parts suggesting serious safety concerns and risks to consumers.

The **Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS)** has made various comparison test results available on their website at [www.scrs.com](http://www.scrs.com). The parts compared and tested included such items as front and rear bumper reinforcements, radiator supports, bumper brackets and energy absorbers.

**"They affect the deployment of airbags, ladies and gentlemen. We're putting people's lives at stake. This is not right."** said Toby Chess who conducted the testing during a recent Collision Industry Conference (CIC) meeting where insurers and parts manufacturer representatives were present.

These are parts frequently called for within repair estimates by insurers and/or their preferred repairers.

As a direct result of those tests, the **Auto Body Parts Association (ABPA)**, who represents more than 150 manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers of non-original aftermarket (generic) crash parts, issued a statement this week suggesting **"discontinuation of the production and sale of these part types."** **ABPA has called for a halt in production of "any unproven parts"**.

Following that announcement, the **Taiwan Auto Body Parts Association (TABPA)** also advised its members to stop the sale and distribution of untested aftermarket structural crash parts.

While the proactive efforts of these associations are applauded, they do not go far enough to remedy the situation. Prior to this notice, many consumers across the country and its territories, including Canada and Mexico have had these defective and potentially unsafe parts installed on their repaired vehicles.

To date there has been no recall on these parts. Consumers who have received repairs in the past are encouraged to determine if such potentially defective parts have been installed on their vehicle. They and their passenger's safety and personal welfare may depend upon their own diligence in this regard.

As such, **Auto Damage Experts** recommends that vehicle owners who has had any front or rear collision damage repaired **immediately** contact the shop which performed the repair to verify that these parts have not been used in their repair, or contact **Auto Damage Experts** directly at [www.AutoDamageExperts.com](http://www.AutoDamageExperts.com) for assistance.

Consumers are also encouraged to contact the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration at:

NHTSA Headquarters  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building  
Washington, DC 20590  
Toll-Free: 1-888-327-4236  
Hearing Impaired (TTY): 1-800-424-9153  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

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