

# **PENNSYLVANIA COLLISION TRADE GUILD**

A DIVISION OF PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF AUTOMOTIVE TRADES

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February 20, 2010

Insurance Commissioner Joel Ario  
Pennsylvania Insurance Department  
1326 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[ra-in-commissioner@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-in-commissioner@state.pa.us)

Re: Safety Concern: Aftermarket Crash Parts Dear

Commissioner Ario,

As your office may already be aware, serious issues regarding the safety and functionality of replacement crash parts has arisen over the past several weeks.

Results from recent testing have illustrated structural crash parts (i.e. front and rear bumpers, bumper brackets, energy absorbers, structure members etc.), manufactured by those other than the original equipment manufacturers (OEM) have been shown to not be constructed in a manner consistent with the originals.

As a result of recent demonstrations, serious questions have been raised with regard to the design, construction and performance for these parts and the role such parts play in the absorption and channeling of crash related energies and as to their direct effect in the deployment of supplemental restraint systems (e.g. air-bags).

Plainly stated, citizens all across Pennsylvania and the entire country who are operating vehicles having been repaired utilizing untested and inferior replacement crash parts are in possible danger, as are their passengers.

In the past month, various organizations including the Certified Aftermarket Parts Association (CAPA), and the Automotive Body Parts Association (ABPA) among others have asked manufacturers and distributors of such parts to remove such parts from distribution.

While these proactive efforts are found to be commendable, they fall far short of activities which will be required to safeguard unwary drivers and their families should they become involved in a frontal or rearward collision.

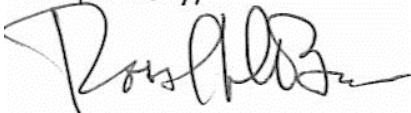
It has been recommended by many concerned professionals across the country that a recall of all vehicles which have been repaired with the employment of such inferior structural components throughout the United States and its territories. We firmly believe that citizens of neighboring countries including Mexico and Canada are also at risk due to the utilization of such parts.

On behalf of the auto body collision repairers of Pennsylvania and its consumers, it is hereby requested that the State of Pennsylvania take the initiative to call for immediate actions to safeguard its citizens to ensure that all vehicles which have been repaired with such parts be recalled, and whereas necessary, re-repairs be undertaken to return affected vehicles to their pre-loss condition relative to safety and performance.

Please find the accompanying information clearly supporting such contentions and actions including the California Repair Association's request to the State of California for a recall.

Thank you for you and your department's timely attention in this important and time sensitive issue.

Respectfully,



Ross DiBono — Executive Director

  
Stephen E. Behrndt — Director

Pennsylvania Collision Trade Guild

Accompanying attachments: