



# STATEMENT

**Contact:** George Gilbert  
313-248-8639  
ggilber1@ford.com

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **USE OF NEW AFTERMARKET (IMITATION) COLLISION PARTS AND AIR BAG SYSTEMS**

**DEARBORN, Mich., June 1, 2004** – Ford Motor Company is confident about the performance of air bag systems it designs and installs in its vehicles. However, Ford cannot be confident that its air bag systems and components will perform properly on vehicles that have been repaired with new aftermarket (imitation) collision parts.

Testing by Ford has shown imitation collision parts to be substandard in their fit and structural integrity. To our knowledge, no comprehensive testing has been conducted to verify that the performance of imitation collision parts -- particularly crucial front end parts, such as hoods, bumper reinforcements and header panels -- in front-end crashes will be compatible with Ford air bag systems.

Genuine Ford replacement collision parts are the same as those used on new vehicles, which have been crash tested and meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Because so little is known about the effect of imitation parts on airbag system and component integrity, Ford believes genuine Ford collision parts should be used for collision repairs to protect the interests of both collision repairers and vehicle owners.

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