



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Burgess:

Thank you for your March 12, 2019, letter regarding a 2017 crash in Texas involving a counterfeit air bag in a 2013 Kia Soul. We welcome the attention you bring to this important public safety concern. Counterfeit air bags present a serious risk to the motoring public because they may not deploy properly or may expel shrapnel when deployed. I share your sentiment that a life lost to a counterfeit air bag is one too many.

As you note in your letter, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a consumer safety advisory for counterfeit air bags in 2012. That same year, NHTSA also issued "Recommended Dealer Guidance for Managing Counterfeit Air Bags," which lists certain indicators that a driver-side air bag may be counterfeit. Counterfeit air bags sometimes appear to be authentic, certified manufacturer air bags, and although illegal, we know they have been imported, sold online, and installed by repair shops.

A comprehensive approach to this problem will require vigilance and coordination across various State, local, and Federal Government agencies with expertise in safety and law enforcement. To date, the full scope of the problem remains difficult to assess. Industry also plays a critical role in this effort, and NHTSA is therefore pleased that the Automotive Anti-Counterfeiting Council has formed to work on identifying and eliminating counterfeit auto parts and to support the efforts of enforcement authorities. Their website can be found at <https://a2c2.com>.

NHTSA continues to monitor consumer complaints and other sources of information, and remains committed to better understanding and addressing the issue.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Brian Barnard, Director of Governmental Affairs, Policy and Strategic Planning at 202-366-2386.

Sincerely yours,


Heidi R. King
Deputy Administrator

DR. BURGESS,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED PASSION FOR
PUBLIC SAFETY!
