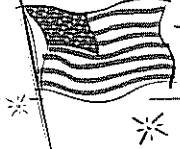




# Quarterly Report



VOLUME 23, NUMBER 1

January 2015

## U.S. auto regulator seeks nationwide recall of Takata air bags

By Julia Edwards and Eric Beech

(Reuters) - The U.S. auto safety regulator has told Japanese supplier Takata Corp and five automakers to expand nationwide a regional recall of potentially lethal air bags.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) also scolded Takata for what it called "an unwillingness to move forward" on a nationwide recall, and said the company needs to be open with the U.S. public about the risks of its air bags.

Five fatalities, including four in the United States, have been linked to the air bags.

The U.S. regional recall has involved 4.1 million cars in hot and humid areas where the air bags may be prone to fail, including Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and parts of Texas along the Gulf of Mexico. Most of those cars are made by Honda Motors, Takata's biggest client.

Around 16 million cars with Takata air bags have been recalled worldwide over the past six years, with more than 10 million of those in the United States.

NHTSA's Friedman said the recall expansion was prompted by an August incident involving a 2007 Ford Mustang in North Carolina, outside the area of the regional recalls.

Ford, Honda, Mazda and Chrysler said they would continue to cooperate with NHTSA and plan to evaluate their call for a national recall. But each stopped short of saying they would expand beyond the current set of cars they are fixing. BMW is already recalling air bags nationally.

Auto safety advocates and lawmakers said NHTSA's latest move may still not capture the scope of the problem, is too late, and may not be enforceable.

Democratic Senators Ed Markey and Richard Blumenthal said they were pleased NHTSA recognized the "national scope" of the problem," but said the call to replace driver-side air bags should be expanded to also include passenger air bags.

NHTSA agreed in June to allow automakers to do a regional recall and use their discretion in deciding how and when to notify customers and replace faulty parts, resulting in confusion for car owners receiving mixed messages.

Friedman, criticized Takata for resisting when NHTSA called on it to issue a defect notification nationwide for air bags of a certain design.

"Takata's initial response was an unwillingness to move forward, and frankly, that is one of the reasons we

are talking to you, because I believe everyone needs to understand that Takata needs to act," he said.

For a complete list of recall affected vehicles -

<http://blog.caranddriver.com/massive-takata-airbag-recall-everything-you-need-to-know-including-full-list-of-affected-vehicles>.

### REMINDER:

When mailing your class reports to USA:

- #1: Make sure to put enough postage on your envelope to avoid return of mail and delays in processing certificates. Please inform your staff and instructors mailing in reports for your school.
- #2: Your cost per student is **\$4.49 per student trained.** Make sure you submit payment to USA for the proper amount of **\$4.49 per student trained.**

# Best and worst vehicle booster seats for your child

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) came out with its annual ratings of vehicle booster seats, and while a record number of models received the highest possible rating, there are others to check - or avoid all together.

The IIHS based its rating of new models on how well three-point shoulder and lap seat belts fit a child-size test dummy that was seated on the booster seat. Shoulder belts should lie across the middle of a child's shoulder, not against their neck or falling onto their arm. Lap belts should lie flat on the child's legs, not across their stomachs.

Out of the 41 models tested, 27 were dubbed "Best Bets" when they would place a typical 4-to-8 year-old child in the right seat belt position in

most cars, minivans and SUV's. These ranged from \$25 to \$370.

Three additional booster seats were rated as "Good Bets", giving what the IIHS calls an "acceptable" belt fit in most vehicles.

There were other booster seats with a "Check Fit" or "Not Recommended" rating.

Before buying booster seats parents should try them out to see if they properly position safety belts on their children in the vehicle(s) they will ride in.

For complete list of IIHS ratings check out:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-best-and-worst-car-booster-seats-for-your-child>

**2015  
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE  
USA TRAINING**

*USA Training Company will be closed on the following dates:*

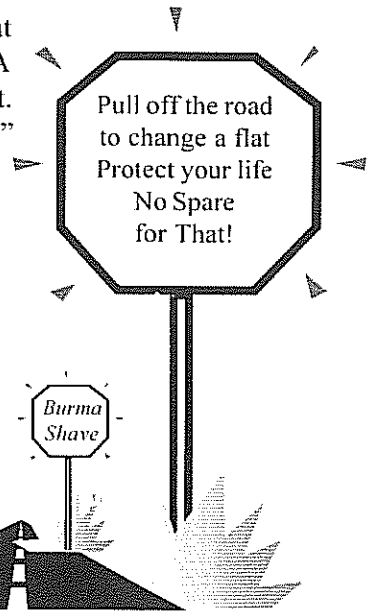
*Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Feb. 16 - President's Day  
Mar. 2 - Texas Independence Day  
April 3 - Good Friday  
May 25 - Memorial Day  
June 19 - Emancipation Day  
July 3 - July 4th holiday  
Aug. 27 - LBJ's Birthday Observed  
Sept. 7 - Labor Day  
October 12 - Columbus Day  
November 11 - Veteran's Day  
Nov. 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving  
December 23, 24, 25 - Christmas*



## Hey, adult drivers... you text more than kids!

Cast aside your mental image of irresponsible teenagers who just *have* to text while they're driving. It turns out adults are even worse. Almost half of all adults surveyed by AT&T (49%) admitted to sneaking in a text while driving, *USA Today* reports, compared to 43% of teenagers. Indeed the problem is getting worse; 60% said that three years ago they'd never done it. And good luck running an awareness campaign, because 98% said they were well aware that texting while driving was dangerous.

"I was a little bit surprised," says one AT&T VP. "It was very sobering to realize that texting while driving by adults is not only high, it's really gone up in the last three years." A National Safety Council representative says it's adults we should be focusing on. "Teens text. But you're looking at around 10 million teen drivers, but about 180 million other adult drivers."



## Distracted driving laws aren't working

Here's a happy statistic to keep in mind on your next drive: A new federal survey estimates that at any given moment, 660,000 drivers are looking at their phones instead of the road. What sounds like good news is that 39 states now have laws against driving while texting, or talking, or whatever, but the problem is they don't seem to be working. Stats in California, for example, show no decrease in the practice since 2010, notes the *LAT*. "Police are finding the laws on distracted driving difficult to enforce," says one road-safety advocate.

# Two Steps, One Sticker

The State of Texas will stop issuing inspection stickers and transition to a “Two Steps, One Sticker” vehicle inspection and registration system this year. Vehicles inspected after March 1, 2015, will no longer be issued an inspection sticker.

You will no longer have to worry about having two stickers with separate expiration dates as long as you follow two simple steps: 1) Get and pass vehicle inspection; 2) Renew your vehicle registration.

## How “Two Steps, One Sticker” Will Work

In order to register you will be required to get and pass an inspection no more than 90 days prior to the date your registration expires. After the inspection, the station will update your electronic inspection record with the results. The station will also issue you a paper copy of the vehicle inspection report (VIR).

When you go to register your vehicle, whether in person, via mail or online, your inspection record will be verified electronically to determine if your vehicle has passed inspection and is eligible for registration.

Transitioning to a “Two Steps, One Sticker” process will require every vehicle’s inspection and registration dates to expire at the same time. In order to do this you will be allowed to register your vehicle if your vehicle inspection is valid the day you register.

*(This article was also included in the October, 2014 Quarterly Report but with the upcoming change, thought we should provide information again.)*

## 2015 IDC SCHEDULE (Instructor Development Course)

Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. all three days  
\$110 Pre-Registration;  
\$150 At the Door

All classes will be held at  
USA Headquarters,  
8871 Tallwood Drive, Austin

January 23, 24, 25  
March 27, 28, 29  
May 15, 16, 17  
July 24, 25, 26  
September 25, 26, 27  
November 20, 21, 22

## Minivans with a major flaw

A group of four minivans recently tested by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) for protection in small overlap front crashes shows some of the worst possible outcomes for this type of crash, with only one vehicle performing acceptably.

The Nissan Quest, the Chrysler Town & Country and its twin, the Dodge Grand Caravan, all earn poor ratings.

The exception to the disappointing pattern is the 2015 Toyota Sienna, which earns an acceptable rating. It joins the Honda Odyssey, which last year earned a good rating in the small overlap crash test, in the ranks of Top Safety Pick+ award winners.

“Minivans are popular among parents, a group that tends to be safety conscious, but we’ve only seen two so far that offer decent protection in small overlap crashes,” says David Zuby, IIHS executive vice president and chief research officer.

## Retrain Classes

The retrain class agenda changes every September 1st. Classes are scheduled within the 12-month period beginning September each year. Every licensed instructor must attend **ONE** class during the 12-month period beginning September 1, 2014 and ending August 31, 2015. Below are the remaining scheduled classes in 2015:

### AUSTIN

USA HQ, 8871 Tallwood Dr.  
All classes are 10 am - 12 noon  
Feb. 6, 2015 (Fri.)  
Apr. 10, 2015 (Fri.)  
June 5, 2015 (Fri.)

### HOUSTON

Golden Corral Restaurant  
16308 FM 529  
April 18, 2015 (Sat.), 8:30 am - 10:30 am

### NACOGDOCHES

Morris Training Facility / License to Laugh  
1901 N. Stallings, #4  
Mar. 28, 2015 (Sat.), 10 am - 12 noon

### BEAUMONT

BCD Driving School, 1060 S 4th St.  
Feb 15, 2015 (Sun.), 2 pm - 4 pm

### HOUSTON

Greenway Mediation Center  
3207 Mercer  
Jan 18, 2015 (Sun), 4pm - 6 pm



Cost is \$10 if you pre-register with a reservation form. If you do not have a reservation form, contact USA HQ. We will mail or fax the form to you. Or, forms are available at [www.usatraining.com](http://www.usatraining.com). select "Take a Course" select "Forms"



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*Wishing you all a safe, healthy and prosperous 2015.  
May your lives be filled with love, laughter and happiness.*

January 2015

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## License Renewals (Fee: \$25)

Listed below are instructors whose licenses are coming up for renewal. You should have received, or soon will receive a renewal application from USA Training. Please fill it out and mail it back to USA Headquarters, with a check payable to TEA.

**MAIL TO: USA Training, PO Box 26309, Austin, TX 78755-0309**

We will deliver it to TEA. Remember, renewals are due at TEA 30 days prior to the expiration date.

**IMPORTANT:** You must attend the 2-hour Mandatory Continuing Education (retrain) every year prior to the renewal. Your name may be listed below even if you have already sent in your renewal. IDC schedules, RETRAIN schedules and RENEWAL FORMS are available online at [www.usatraining.com](http://www.usatraining.com), "Take A Class", "Forms".

| <u>Instructor</u> | <u>Expires</u> | <u>Instructor</u>      | <u>Expires</u> | <u>Instructor</u> | <u>Expires</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Barrington, Kim   | 16-Mar         | Lima, Mary             | 5-Feb          | Tobias, J.D.      | 11-Feb         |
| Bechter, Alison   | 30-Jan         | Livingston, Jacqueline | 9-Feb          | Tran, Diana       | 8-Feb          |
| Cook, Jerome      | 9-Mar          | Lopez, Leopoldo        | 15-Mar         | Vera, George      | 28-Mar         |
| Eicker, Jerry     | 20-Mar         | Medrano, Rocky         | 11-Feb         | Walters, Larry    | 20-Mar         |
| Garcia, John L.   | 28-Mar         | Myles, Otis            | 10-Feb         | Walzel, Victor    | 25-Mar         |
| Garza, Charlotte  | 30-Jan         | Pool, John             | 10-Mar         | Washington, Keith | 30-Jan         |
| Gutting, Graham   | 24-Feb         | Pride, Autrey          | 23-Feb         | Woods, Robert     | 27-Feb         |
| Hagen, Charles    | 30-Jan         | Purdy, Hareld          | 22-Feb         | Young, Cy         | 19-Feb         |
| Harris, Debra     | 16-Mar         | Robertson, Ida         | 2-Mar          |                   |                |
| Hill, Terry Lee   | 16-Feb         | Rose, Deborah          | 17-Feb         |                   |                |
| Housler, Conrad   | 20-Mar         | Ruiz, Estella          | 29-Jan         |                   |                |
| Kolthoff, Shirley | 31-Jan         | Serna, Daniel          | 5-Mar          |                   |                |
| Lao, Tammy        | 30-Jan         | Springli, Joseph       | 24-Feb         |                   |                |
| Ledesma, Robert   | 27-Jan         | Taylor, Bryan          | 11-Mar         |                   |                |



### NOTICE

*USA made some revisions to the Contract/Master Student Registration Form, Overnight Request Form and Duplicate Certificate Request Form in October, 2014.*

**IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE REVISED (10/2014) FORMS**

**CONTACT USA**

*We will email, fax or mail to you.*

*Call 512-346-2132 or email*

*[sjacobs@usatraining.com](mailto:sjacobs@usatraining.com)*