

REBUILT AIRBAGS

WARNING FROM THE SAAQ

This notice applies primarily to vehicle owners whose airbags have been replaced since 1998, notably the owners of rebuilt or used cars or those involved in an accident from that period.

There are currently on the market rebuilt airbags that, when deployed, could cause serious head or upper body injuries. The handmade airbags were manufactured by the companies Coussins gonflables Demers Inc. and National sacs gonflables Inc., the two firms currently known in Québec for dealing in this kind of product.

Vehicle owners who have any doubts about the origin of their airbags are asked to report to an authorized dealer to have their airbags checked. The rebuilt airbags must be replaced as soon as possible by brand-new airbags. If immediate replacement is impossible, the SAAQ recommends that the dealer temporarily disable the rebuilt airbags. It is absolutely ill-advised for vehicle owners to disable their own airbags due to the dangers that could entail.

Airbags are effective security devices that have been tried and proven. They offer good protection against injuries to the head or chest that could be fatal or cause vehicle occupants to be seriously disabled. The combined use of seatbelts and airbags cuts down the risks of serious injuries to the head by 75% and by 66% those of serious injuries to the chest.

Any charges to have airbags checked are at the expense of the vehicle owner. The same holds true for installation costs. However, owners of rebuilt cars or those involved in accidents who dealt with an insurer or a body shop should first check with them concerning their policy in this matter. Note that under the court injunction obtained on November 28 by the SAAQ, Coussins gonflables Demers Inc. and National sacs gonflables Inc. will be liable for repayment of installation costs. The terms and conditions of this repayment remain to be established.

The SAAQ always recommends the replacement of an airbag that has been deployed with a brand-new one.

Québec City: (418) 643-7620 • Montréal: (514) 873-7620 • Elsewhere in Québec: 1 800 361-7620

(Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

**Société de l'assurance
automobile**

Québec 