



ARA Calls on Automakers to Publicly Release the VINs of All Vehicles with Takata Airbags along with the Serial Number of Every Takata Airbag Installed in their Vehicles

Washington – August 24, 2017. The Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA), representing over 4,500 professional automotive recyclers across the United States and in 17 countries internationally, today calls on automakers to publicly release a comprehensive list of vehicle identification numbers (VINs) and their airbag serial numbers for all vehicles with Takata airbags.

For decades, the professional automotive recycling industry has sought original equipment manufacturer (OEM) part numbers from automakers to unequivocally identify automotive parts from total loss and end-of-life vehicles. Regrettably, the automakers have been unwilling to voluntarily provide this important safety information to the professional automotive recycling industry and others – unlike Europe where the automakers are mandated to do so.

In the last Congress, the full House of Representatives passed a provision by Representative Adam Kinzinger of Illinois that required auto manufacturers to provide automotive recyclers with parts data on all parts as they do for other segments of the automotive service and repair industries. Regrettably, the final legislation passed by Congress as part of the highway bill and signed by President Obama made some progress requiring important safety information, but only for recalled parts. Congressman Kinzinger has introduced legislation in this Congress that would require motor vehicle manufacturers to provide the part numbers and serial numbers specific to each VIN for all vehicles to improve automotive safety and consumer protection. This comprehensive parts data is vital to efficiently identify future NHTSA recalls that may be in an automotive recycler's inventory. However, if auto manufacturers are serious about remedying recall and safety issues, they would be providing this information without being forced to legislatively.

Furthermore, ARA urges the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to fast track its rulemaking to specifically spell out auto manufacturers' recall parts data requirements under the 2015 highway bill. ARA representatives have met numerous times with NHTSA leadership and staff to provide technical assistance on the complexities of part identification in the automotive parts supply chain. ARA urges NHTSA to require automakers to provide electronic digital data on part names, part descriptions and part numbers tied to specific VIN numbers so professional automotive recyclers can efficiently identify automobile manufacturers' defective parts. Again, if auto manufacturers are serious about the safety and getting their defective parts off of the market, they would be voluntarily providing this data.

Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA)

ARA aims to further the automotive recycling industry through various services and programs to increase public awareness of the industry's role in conserving the future through automotive recycling and to foster awareness of the industry's value as a high quality, low cost, environmentally friendly replacement parts option for consumers. Representatives of ARA are available to inform interest parties on important automotive safety and part replacement options/issues.