

December 15, 2023

Subject: Comment on NHTSA-2023-0038-0001

Final Assignment

I am submitting this comment in response to the recent determination, NHTSA-2023-0038-0001, regarding the safety defect in specific frontal driver and passenger airbag inflators manufactured by ARC Automotive, Inc. and Delphi Automotive Systems, LLC. This decision marks a critical step in upholding public safety standards and ensuring the protection of vehicle occupants nationwide. I speak on my behalf and not on behalf of anyone affected by NHTSA's. I'm commenting purely out of interest in this matter. I'd like to express my appreciation for this opportunity and your consideration of my comment addressing ARC Automotive's defective inflators.

As per the information available on TrueLaw.com's update on December 6th, 2023, "ARC Airbag Inflators, substantially similar to the Takata Airbags that injured and killed dozens of people, use ammonium nitrate as a secondary propellant to fill airbags upon collision" (Jessie Paluch). The ammonium nitrate used in these airbag inflators is concerning because ammonium nitrate is known to have the potential to explode when heated, raising significant safety concerns. These defective airbag inflators were integrated into vehicles produced by well-known automakers such as Volkswagen, Ford, Audi, Toyota and others. The production and distribution of these defective airbags occurred between 2001 and 2018. As a daily driver of a 2014 Volkswagen Jetta, the uncertainty of whether my vehicle is equipped with a defective airbag system creates a lot of concern for my safety as a driver.

Tragic statistics paint a disheartening reality: in the United States, an average of "1 pedestrian dies from a car crash every 88 minutes" (Darrigo and Diaz Attorney and Law). These figures highlight the inherent vulnerability pedestrians face due to vehicular accidents. When compared with data obtained from Regulations.gov records, the scale of the problem becomes even more apparent. Over the past 14 years, these records have documented at least seven reported injuries and one tragic fatality directly linked to a specific airbag defect in the United States. In addition, there have been two reports abroad of injuries caused by airbag failures.

These statistics are a stark reminder of the urgent need for immediate action to address this pressing safety issue. The loss of life and the high number of injuries caused by defective airbags underscore the urgency and seriousness of the situation. Each reported incident clearly demonstrates the potential danger posed by these defective airbags and the need for prompt, comprehensive action to correct this critical safety issue. Failure to promptly address this matter not only jeopardizes individuals' lives but also perpetuates the risk to public safety on the roads, underscoring the urgent need for an immediate and thorough resolution.

I strongly advocate for immediate and comprehensive measures to rectify this pressing safety concern. Urgent steps should include initiating and expediting recalls for all vehicles equipped with these defective airbag inflators, ensuring swift communication with affected vehicle owners to facilitate timely replacements, and implementing stringent quality control measures for

replacement airbags. Additionally, a comprehensive safety inspection must be performed with the assistance of an authorized service center to identify and replace faulty airbags in affected vehicles. Collaboration between automakers, regulators and safety organizations is critical to ensuring this critical issue is addressed consistently and effectively. Heightened public awareness campaigns and accessible information dissemination about the risks associated with these faulty airbags are also essential to empower vehicle owners to take necessary actions for their safety.

I strongly urge regulators to take swift and comprehensive steps to address this safety flaw and ensure the safety and well-being of all vehicle occupants. The continued occurrence of such incidents poses an imminent and serious threat to public safety.

Thank you again for considering my comment.

Best,

Jayne Anderson

Work cited

Paluch, Jessie. "Arc Airbag Lawsuit: Exploding Airbags [December 2023 Update]." *TruLaw*, 6 Dec. 2023, trulaw.com/arc-airbag-lawsuit-exploding-airbag-inflators/.

Russell, Randy, et al. "Car Accident Statistics You Need to Know in 2023." *Darrigo & Diaz*, 27 Oct. 2023, www.ddlawtampa.com/resources/car-accident-statistics-you-need-to-know-in-2021/#:~:text=Total%20number%20of%20car%20accidents%20per%20year%20in%20the%20U.S.&text=On%20average%2C%20there%20are%20over,losing%20their%20lives%20each%20ye
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