



**COMESA Competition Commission**

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**Common Market for Eastern  
and Southern Africa**

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**CONSUMER ALERT**

**NUMEROUS VEHICLE RECALLS OVER FAULTY TAKATA AIRBAG INFLATORS**

The COMESA Competition Commission (the “Commission”) wishes to alert consumers of numerous recalls in different countries, of vehicles equipped with defective Takata airbag inflators. The affected vehicles are mostly from model years 2002 to 2015, and as of January 2024, over 100 million Takata airbag inflators worldwide had been recalled by more than 20 car manufacturers<sup>1</sup>. The faulty airbags have been linked to 22 deaths and more than 180 known injuries.

According to the Safety Recall Notice by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Takata PSDI-5 inflator propellant may over time, create excessive internal pressure resulting in the rupture of the body of the inflator upon deployment, thereby causing metal fragments to pass through the air bag cushion material and cause injury or death to vehicle occupants. The ruptures may occur in some of the inflators after several years of exposure to persistent conditions of high absolute humidity, high temperatures, and high temperature cycling, among other factors<sup>2</sup>.

The Commission further established that in May 2024, the NHTSA issued a “Do Not Drive” warning to owners of some of the following vehicles listed below<sup>3</sup>:

	<b>Brand</b>	<b>Model</b>
1.	Toyota	Certain 2004-2005 Toyota RAV4s
		Certain 2003-2004 Corollas, including Matrix
2.	Nissan	Certain 2002-2006 Nissan Sentras
		Certain 2002-2004 Nissan Pathfinders
3.	Honda	2001-2002 Honda Accord
		2001-2002 Honda Civic
		2002 Honda CR-V
		2002 Honda Odyssey
		2003 Honda Pilot

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takata\\_Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takata_Corporation)

<sup>2</sup> <https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2024/RCLRPT-24V513-4713.PDF?Language%3A%20English&text=Long%2Dterm%20exposure%20to%20high,very%20serious%20threat%20to%20safety.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nhtsa.gov/takata-recall-spotlight/do-not-drive-warning>

4.	Mazda	Certain 2006 Mazda B-Series
5.	Ford	Certain 2006 Ford Rangers
6.	Pontiac	Certain 2003-2004 Pontiac Vibes
7.	Acura	2002-2003 Acura 3.2 TL
		2003 Acura 3.2CL
8.	BMW	Certain 2000-2006 BMW 3 Series (E46) including M3
		Certain 2000-2003 BMW 5 Series (E39) including M5
		Certain 2000-2004 BMW X5s (E53)
9.	Chrysler	2005-2010 Chrysler 300
10.	Infiniti	Certain 2002-2003 Infiniti QX4s
11.	Dodge	2005-2010 Dodge Magnum
		2005-2010 Dodge Charger
		2005-2010 Dodge Challenger
		2003 Dodge Ram 1500

The Commission also established that in 2017, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan issued a statement conditioning the repair of vehicles with Takata airbags before they were presented for inspection and notified the public that about 18 people worldwide had been killed due to abnormal explosions<sup>4</sup>. Toyota went ahead to provide the link below, for consumers to check which vehicles were subject to the Takata airbag recall:

<https://www.toyota.co.jp/recall-search/dc/en/search>

The NHTSA has also provided the link below on their website, where consumers can confirm the recall status of their cars, using the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN):

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>

The Commission therefore wishes to alert consumers in the COMESA Region of the ongoing developments regarding the Takata airbags, for their information, since there is high importation of used cars in the Region. Consumers may use the above links to check if their vehicles are affected by the ongoing recalls and report to the Commission.

Affected consumers and anyone requiring more information regarding this subject matter, may contact **Mr. Steven Kamukama, Director Consumer Welfare and Advocacy Division** on +265 (0) 111 772466 or by email: [skamukama@comesacompetition.org](mailto:skamukama@comesacompetition.org)

Affected persons within the Common Market may also contact their national consumer protection institutions or any other body with the mandate on consumer protection in their countries.



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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.toyota.com/recall/takata>