

New Trend?

Did you know that when a vehicle is branded and put back on the road it is not mandatory to replace the airbags/module? According to a source at the MTO, airbags are rarely replaced due to the high cost. Interesting but how is it relevant to what you do?

Sue Collings of Royal & SunAlliance has recently investigated two separate suspicious accidents which reportedly resulted in airbag deployment. It was noted in both cases that each vehicle was branded. Contact with the prior insurers revealed that each vehicle had been written off with extensive front end damage – and airbag deployment.

In the first instance the “Rebuilt Part Audit Form” at the MTO indicated that the airbags had been replaced providing a VIN of the vehicle the bags had been taken from for parts. A search of this VIN revealed that the vehicle was still registered and operating in Ontario. In the second instance, the owner indicated on the same form that the airbags had never been replaced.

With the assistance of Brad Bunker at SRS – Safety Restraint Systems Inc. we were able to determine that the airbags had never been replaced in either vehicle and were the originals installed by the manufacturer at the factory.

As shocking as it may seem it appears that certain individuals are driving about with already deployed airbags seeking an accident.