

## PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS

### Honda Recalls 800,000 Vehicles

**Description:** Honda is recalling certain model year 2003 and 2004 Pilot and Odyssey and 2003 through 2006 Acura MDX passenger vehicles manufactured from November 26, 2001, through August 30, 2006.

**Hazard:** The interlock lever of the ignition switch may deform, which can allow the interlock function of a vehicle with an automatic transmission to be defeated. Removal of the ignition key when the gear selector of a vehicle with an automatic transmission has not been shifted to the park position can allow the vehicle to roll away, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:** Honda will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicle to a Honda or Acura dealer. The dealer will install an updated shift interlock lever and, if necessary, replace the ignition switch, free of charge.

### Toyota Recalls 670,000 Vehicles

**Description:** Toyota is recalling certain model year 2004-2009 Prius vehicles manufactured August 5, 2003, through March 30, 2009.

**Hazard:** The affected vehicles have a steering intermediate extension shaft assembly built with metal splines that complete the connection from the steering wheel to the steering gear. These splines may have been manufactured with an insufficient hardness. Over time, the splines may wear and eventually fail resulting in a loss of steering ability, increasing the risk of a vehicle crash.

**Remedy:** Toyota will notify owners, and dealers will inspect the extension shaft and replace it if it is one with insufficient hardness, free of charge.

### Fisher Price Infant Sleepers

**Description:** This recall to inspect includes all Fisher-Price Rock N' Play infant recliner seats called sleepers. The sleeper is designed for babies up to 25 pounds and is composed of a soft plastic seat held by a metal rocking frame. The product has a removable, fabric cover.

**Hazard:** Mold can develop between the removable seat cushion and the hard plastic frame of the sleeper when it remains wet/moist or is infrequently cleaned, posing a risk of exposure to mold to infants sleeping in the product. The CPSC advises that mold has been associated with respiratory illnesses and other infections.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately check for mold under the removable seat cushion. If mold is found, consumers should immediately stop using the product.

### Bugaboo Strollers

**Description:** This recall involves the carry handles on Bugaboo Cameleon and Bugaboo Donkey model strollers with detachable carrycots/seats. The strollers were sold with a base, sun canopy and other accessories in various

colors. Strollers included in the recall have a serial number that falls within specific ranges. Serial numbers are printed on the stroller's chassis, located under the carrycot/seat.

**Hazard:** A button on the stroller's carrycot/seat carry handle can become disengaged and cause the handle to detach, posing fall and choking hazards to young children.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately remove the carry handle from the strollers and contact Bugaboo for a free replacement handle.

### Step2 Riding Toy

**Description:** The recalled product is an X-Rider Car. It is a red, plastic toy scooter with a yellow handlebar and seat, and two blue stickers that simulate headlights. It is 14 inches high, 14 inches wide and 19 inches long. The middle of the handle bar contains the Step2 logo. Children use their feet to propel the toy.

**Hazard:** Children who lean too far forward on the seat can go over the handle bar and hit the ground. This poses a fall hazard.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately take the recalled toy away from children and contact Step2 to receive a free replacement toy.

### LG & Kenmore Top Loading Washing Machines

**Description:** The recall involves three LG and three Kenmore Elite Brand top-loading washing machine models manufactured between February 2010 and November 2011. The units come in beige, white and graphite steel colors. All were sold from April 2010 to December 2012 for between \$899 and \$1,099.

**Hazard:** An unbalanced load can cause the washing machine to shake excessively and the drum to come loose during use, posing a risk of injury to consumers and property damage to the surrounding area.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately contact LG or Sears for a free in-home repair of the machine. Consumers who have observed their recalled washing machine shaking excessively should immediately stop using it.

### Master Forge Gas Grills

**Description:** This recall involves Master Forge four-burner gas grills with a single-door base. "Master Forge" is written on the grill's hood. The model number GD4825 is located on a label inside the door of the grill's base.

**Hazard:** If improperly installed, the hose connecting the gas tank and regulator to the burner control can touch the burner box and cause the hose to melt and rupture when the grill is lit. This poses a fire and burn hazard.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the grill and inspect the grill to make sure that the gas hose runs along the outside of the grill cabinet and passes through the round hole in the side panel.

## Newest Member Enhances Bilingual Legal Services

With the growing diversity of our communities, there may be times when you need to associate a personal injury law firm that offers bilingual services. Roberts & Roberts is prepared to help.

For years our law firm's staff has been capable of assisting Spanish speaking clients. We are now pleased to have a Spanish speaking attorney, Nick Pesina,

to enhance our legal services for the Spanish speaking community.

Nick is a recent graduate of The University of Texas School of Law as well as an East Texas native. You can visit our website to learn more about Nick and his qualifications. As always, if Roberts & Roberts can be of assistance to you in your practice, please let us know.

## Roberts & Roberts voted "Best Attorney of 2012"

Every year BScene Magazine asks their readers to vote for who they think the best business, restaurant, etc. is in the East Texas area. We are proud to announce that Roberts and Roberts was voted the "Best Attorney of 2012" by BScene readers.

This isn't the first time that Roberts & Roberts has received recognition in East Texas. Randy Roberts was voted the "Top Personal Injury Attorney" in an earlier poll of East Texans conducted by BScene magazine. Roberts & Roberts has also been selected "Best Attorney" in a readership poll conducted by the Tyler Courier-Times Telegraph.

We would like to say thank you to all those who voted for us. We are committed to making a difference in our community, one client at a time. If you would like

to learn more about the other local recognition as well as national recognition we have received, visit our website at [www.robertslawfirm.com/national-recognition](http://www.robertslawfirm.com/national-recognition).



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### ANSWERS TO LEGAL QUESTIONS

#### Question:

Is it illegal to unknowingly sell a recalled product at a garage sale?

#### Answer:

Yes. Selling products, even used ones, which have been recalled or banned is a violation of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. Besides individuals holding garage or yard sales, this law applies to thrift or consignment stores, charities, flea markets, and to people to who sell on auction websites.

"Ignorance of the law is not an excuse," warns a 27-page Consumer Product Safety Commission resellers' handbook. This handbook is available at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). It summarizes the law for everyday people who sell used products.

*KNOW YOUR RIGHTS...*

*...LET US PROTECT THEM*

Visit [www.robertslawfirm.com](http://www.robertslawfirm.com), "like" us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter for more recall information and to learn how to report defective products.

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Spring 2013

## Safety & The Law

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**What's New in 2013**

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**Product Safety Recalls**

See the latest recall information...

**Answers To Legal Questions**

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### Counterfeit Air Bags Pose Safety Hazard; Replacement Parts at Risk

Consumers and repair professionals were alerted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and other federal agencies to what the government describes as a growing motor vehicle-related safety hazard—counterfeit air bags sold as replacement parts by organized criminals.

The full scope and scale of the problem is not yet known, and no injuries or deaths have been reported, NHTSA said in a statement. However, the agency said its testing shows that counterfeit products, which it says are becoming

more prevalent, are consistently subject to malfunction ranging from non-deployment to expulsion of metal shrapnel during deployment.

Only vehicles that have had an air bag replaced within the last three years by a repair shop that is not part of a new car dealership are at risk of having counterfeit air bags, NHTSA said, estimating that the issue affects less than 0.1 percent of the U.S. vehicle fleet.

The agency has so far identified 21 makes and a number of models of vehicles for which counterfeit air bags may be an issue.

The Alliance of Automobile manufacturers said all owners of vehicles that may be at risk should contact their dealer, repair shop, or insurance company to find out if certified parts were used during repairs.

Owners of used vehicles may be able to identify counterfeit parts from a commercial website, such as Carfax, the Alliance said.

Counterfeit air bags look nearly identical to certified, original equipment parts, so repair shops may not even be aware that products were knock-offs during installation, the Alliance and NHTSA said.

“[I]t’s critical that vehicle owners work with their automotive dealers and repair professionals to ensure they use the appropriate, original equipment parts in the event they need to replace their air bag,” NHTSA Administrator David Strickland said in a statement.

Carfax also issued a statement saying it has posted a free online tool that consumers can use to check for prior air bag deployment reports sent to the company.

If you or someone you know has been seriously injured and you suspect that a counterfeit airbag could be the cause, contact us today.



#### Our Policy: The Initial Consultation is Free

The attorney's fee is a percentage of your recovery. You are not obligated to pay any attorney's fee, court costs, or other legal expenses unless you are compensated.

If you know of someone who is injured, call Roberts & Roberts...

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