

NO: 08-32-97

**SUBJECT: NHTSA Authorized Airbag Deactivation For Medical Necessity**

**DATE: Sep. 19, 1997**

**NOTE: THIS BULLETIN IS PROVIDED TO IDENTIFY THE PARTS AND PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO DEACTIVATE AIRBAGS AUTHORIZED BY NHTSA. AIRBAG DEACTIVATION IS A CUSTOMER PAY PROCEDURE, NOT COVERED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE WARRANTY.**

**NOTE: AFTER PERFORMING THE AIRBAG DEACTIVATION PROCEDURE ON SOME VEHICLES THE AIRBAG WARNING LIGHT WILL REMAIN ON (SEE INSTRUCTION SHEET). CUSTOMERS SHOULD BE TOLD THIS PRIOR TO DEACTIVATION.**

**NOTE: IN THE UNIQUE CASE WHERE THE LAMP REMAINS ON WITH A DEACTIVATED DRIVER AIRBAG, AND THE PASSENGER AIRBAG REMAINS ACTIVATED, THE TELLTALE FUNCTION OF THE AIRBAG WARNING LIGHT WILL BE DEFEATED, i.e. SYSTEM FAULTS WILL NOT BE REPORTED (BECAUSE LAMP IS ALWAYS ON).**

**DISCUSSION:**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has begun and will be authorizing some vehicle owners individually, in writing, permission to have one, the other or both of their airbags deactivated for medical necessity.

Owners authorized by NHTSA to have their airbag(s) deactivated will have a letter to that effect. Only those owners with an NHTSA letter can be considered for airbag deactivation at this time until further notice.

To deactivate and document the airbag deactivation, the following procedure must be adhered to:

1. **THE OWNERS MUST: produce a letter from NHTSA authorizing deactivation; verify vehicle ownership; and sign a copy of the waiver (reproduced on the Dealer's letterhead) provided with this bulletin.**
2. The Dealer then faxes a copy of the NHTSA letter and the signed waiver to the Star Center using the **STAR CENTER FAX FORM**, marked "Electrical Group", provided with this bulletin.
3. The Star Center will order the appropriate kit and have it shipped to the dealership.
4. The Star Center will telefax the NHTSA letter and signed waiver to the Chrysler Customer Call Center and Office of the General Council for their records.
5. The dealer must retain the original copies of the NHTSA authorization and the signed waiver in his files for a minimum of 5 years.
6. Report the airbag deactivation on the DIAL system by using the VIP Options Update function using the following procedure:
  - a. Download the VIN in the normal fashion.
  - b. Select the F3 key from the VIP Vehicle Summary screen to get to the Option Update menu.
  - c. If there were no dealer installed options previously reported on the vehicle, a dropdown list will be automatically displayed. If there were codes previously added, those codes will be displayed. If there were codes previously added, those codes will be displayed first. To get to the options list select the F3 key.
  - d. Select the appropriate sales code(s):

4ED = Driver Airbag Deactivated

4EE = Passenger Airbag Deactivated

- e. Confirm the sales code selection(s) by pressing the F10 key.
- f. To report the reactivation of airbag(s) follow steps a - e, substitute the sales code(s) with either of the following:

4EF = Driver Airbag Reactivated

4EG = Passenger Airbag Reactivated

VIP will display "WARNING MESSAGES" anytime an airbag has been reported as being deactivated. To view these messages select the F4 key from the VIP VEHICLE SUMMARY screen. The message will indicate which airbag

has been deactivated.

**NOTE: ALL DEALER OWNED USED VEHICLES SHOULD BE INSPECTED FOR PROPER AIRBAG OPERATION, i.e. NOT DEACTIVATED, PRIOR TO RESALE.**

**NOTE: THE PROCEDURES SET BY THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA), A U.S. AGENCY, DO NOT APPLY TO VEHICLES IN CANADA. SHOULD A SIMILAR PROGRAM BE INITIATED IN CANADA, CANADIAN DEALERS WILL BE NOTIFIED AT A LATER DATE.**

## **POLICY: Information Only**

Attach:Waiver Form

[Dealer's Letterhead]

### **Authorization to Deactivate an Air Bag**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the owner of the following vehicle:

Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN: \_\_\_\_\_

State of Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Present Address \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Present Telephone Numbers

-Home \_\_\_\_\_

-Business \_\_\_\_\_

acknowledge and understand that:

(1) NHTSA in its letter to me, dated \_\_\_\_\_ states that it will not enforce against the dealer that portion of Federal Law which prohibits deactivation of the air bag, or air bags;

(2) A deactivated air bag will not deploy and thus will provide neither life-saving, nor injury reducing, protection in the event of a motor vehicle collision. NHTSA, in its letter to me, explained fully the added safety provided by air bags and notwithstanding that explanation, I still desire to have my air bag, or air bags, deactivated;

(3) I will allow the dealer to attach Warning Labels to my vehicle and I will ensure that those labels remain in place as long as the air bag, or air bags, remains deactivated.

(4) At some time in the future, NHTSA may adopt a change in its regulations and allow deactivation of the air bag without their approval. If that regulation is adopted as a final rule, I may be provided additional labels by either NHTSA, or the dealer, and I agree to affix those labels to my vehicle in accordance with the instructions provided and will ensure that they remain in place as long as the air bag, or air bags, remain deactivated.

(5) By authorizing the deactivation of an air bag in my vehicle, I waive any claim, or cause of action, that I may have against the dealer and/or Chrysler Corporation because the air bag has been deactivated.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner\s Signature

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Owner\s Signature

Revised September 4, 1997