



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Deborah G. Klouser
(202) 737-2212

LOOK FOR THE CAPA SEAL

Important Notice: If the Part Doesn't Have a CAPA Seal, Then It's Not CAPA Certified!

Washington, DC – For the protection of the public, collision repairer shops, and insurance companies, the Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA) requires that each and every certified part be identified by a tamper-proof seal. The top portion of the seal is designed to permanently stay on the part. The lower portion is designed to be removed and placed on the repair order to verify the use of a CAPA part. Regardless of how a part is listed on an estimate or in a catalog, or even what is stated on the packaging, if there is no CAPA seal on the part, the part is NOT CAPA certified.

Every seal has a unique number that makes it possible to trace parts back to the original manufacturer. By using the CAPA TRACKER to record part usage, shops can be notified if a problem develops that could potentially affect that part.

It is important that shops and insurers understand that part certification is not granted upon a manufacturer's entry to the program. Only after an individual part is fully tested and demonstrates that it meets all of CAPA's comprehensive requirements will it be certified.

Only then is the manufacturer allowed to affix the CAPA quality seal. Again, parts without CAPA quality seals are not CAPA certified.

Checking for the CAPA seal is important because manufacturers participating in the CAPA program will often make two versions of a particular part: one that meets all of CAPA's quality standards and one that they choose not to certify to CAPA's standards.

Only the CAPA certified versions of the parts will have the CAPA seal, so it is critically important that shops look for the seal on the part. Recently, CAPA reviewed the top 100 certifiable parts called for on estimates and found that only 50% had achieved CAPA certification. Of those parts in which had been certified, only a small minority were actually available in the market. Overall, the top 100 parts called for on estimates represented over 15 million parts, and only 8% were available as CAPA certified in the market.

At www.CAPAcertified.org, users of CAPA parts can enter the unique CAPA seal number in order to obtain important information about that particular part. This system will provide instant verification that the part is currently certified, or if it has been decertified. Part distributors are notified weekly when parts are decertified and should not be selling such parts as CAPA certified. This CAPA seal search function, which has always been part of CAPA's vigorous internal quality and tracking system, provides the public with detailed information about the part.

“Public integrity and public access go hand in hand, and providing free access to important quality information is vital to running a credible program,” said Jack Gillis, CAPA Executive Director. “Repairers, part distributors, and insurers need to know that regardless of what a seller may say about the part, if it doesn't have a CAPA seal, it is not CAPA certified.” This built-in confirmation enables each segment of the industry to have confidence in the fact that when they request CAPA certified parts, they can easily confirm that they have actually received them.

CAPA Metals/Plastics Seal



CAPA Lighting Seals



There are currently more than 7,400 CAPA certified part applications available to the market.

Unfortunately, about 21% of those parts, while fully CAPA certified, manufacturers and distributors choose not to offer. Another 18% are offered in amounts of less than 250 units. That means that while a part may appear as CAPA certified on an estimate, distributors will not be able to supply it. Because this can lead to part substitution, it's important that insurers and repair shops who call for CAPA certified parts, check to see that a CAPA part was, in fact, delivered.

The Certified Automotive Parts Association, founded in 1987, is the nation's only independent, non-profit, third party crash parts quality certification organization. CAPA certification identifies, for both consumers and the industry, those parts that meet our high quality standards for fit, form, finish, material content and corrosion resistance. For more information see www.CAPAcertified.org.

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