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Toyota Says Automakers Agree to Hire Outside Air-Bag Test Firm

By Mark Clothier and David Welch - Dec 4, 2014

Toyota Motor Corp., which is among several automakers recalling vehicles with faulty air bags made by Takata Corp., said other carmakers are embracing its call for an independent evaluation of inflators in the safety systems.

Toyota this week had suggested that the companies affected by the recall should hire an independent engineering firm to test the air-bag inflators subject to the recall of at least 8 million vehicles.

“It sounds like we’re all in on the idea of hiring our own independent testing firm,” [Bob Carter](#), senior vice president at Toyota’s U.S. operations, said yesterday in an interview in Detroit.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has said that air-bag inflators may malfunction if exposed to consistently high humidity, causing the devices to deploy with too much force, breaking apart metal pieces and striking passengers. The faulty air bags are linked to at least four deaths in [Honda \(7267\)](#) vehicles in the U.S. and another in Malaysia.

Honda Motor Co., Takata’s biggest customer, and at least nine other automakers including Toyota and Bayerische Motoren Werke AG are affected by the recalls.

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