

ATTENTION

Are Undeployed Air Bags

Hazardous Waste?

In most cases, yes.

The units, whether made of plastic, vinyl or metal, contain a propellant called sodium azide, a hazardous substance, which is dangerous if inhaled and may burn exposed skin. Additionally, the unexpected deployment may cause personal injury.

The problem is that airbags are both an explosive device and hazardous waste all wrapped up into one package. It is the chemical that is inside of the airbags that presents the problem. Sodium azide is a known carcinogen that also explodes when activated.

Air bag cartridges that have not been deployed are hazardous waste. If the air bags have been deployed, the material is no longer dangerous, and you will not have to take special precautions.

However, undeployed sodium azide airbag canisters are considered reactive hazardous wastes.

Never discard undeployed airbags in the trash. Most states consider undeployed airbag assemblies to be hazardous waste, and these components are considered an extreme hazard by solid waste transporters and landfills. Undeployed airbags are considered hazardous waste unless they are recycled. Special provisions must be followed to utilize the "recycling" exemption.

Store undeployed air bag units indoors, protected from the weather until they can be resold or properly disposed. Deployment of airbags may be considered *treatment of hazardous waste* and is *not allowed* in many states without a permit.

Dealerships must also understand that undeployed airbags and pretensioners are considered HazMat for purposes of shipping and handling, and that HazMat-specific training is required for all shipping and handling personnel identified as "hazmat employees." If the undeployed airbags cannot be returned to the manufacturer, they must be properly managed, disposed and/or recycled.

Similarly, seatbelt pretensioners and undeployed airbags containing compressed gas are considered hazardous waste as well. They must also be managed according to DOT and EPA regulations.

Crandall Corporation has been granted Party Status to a Special Permit for transporting undeployed airbags.

Contact Crandall Corporation for assistance with properly managing your undeployed airbags and seatbelt pretensioners.