

Change Airbags For License Renewal

KUALA LUMPUR: With immediate effect, 71,315 Honda and other brand car owners who fail to get their airbags changed, despite reminders, will not have their licences renewed, said Transport Minister Anthony Loke.

He said such a drastic measure had to be taken after eight cases involving airbag failure since 2014. Loke said that starting tomorrow, the Road Transport Department (RTD) would get in touch with Honda and other car makers that faced airbag problems. “RTD will provide information on Honda owners who have yet to get their airbags changed.

“This is crucial as 21.5 per cent of 332,458 Honda cars, manufactured between 2003 and 2013 are using the old Takata airbags.” Earlier, he visited the family of Pong Hou Tien, 23, who died after his car rammed into a lamp post in Taman Len Seng.

The incident, happened when the victim, who was a final year student at a private university, was heading back home to Damai Perdana after watching football match at a mamak restaurant.

The cause of his death was due injuries inflicted by a faulty Takata airbag inflator that ruptured during the crash. Loke said Honda Malaysia had sent a reminder to the victim on May 22, six days before the incident. However, it was sent to a different address.

“According to Honda, it had issued 28 reminders to the previous owner’s address, but the letters were not sent to the current owner. So the victim was not aware of the need to change the airbag.”

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