



SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

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OEM Plastic Parts Repair

RATIONALE

This technical report is being stabilized because it covers technology, products, or processes for which technical expertise no longer resides in the owning committee.

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1. SCOPE

This SAE Recommended Practice defines the information required to repair the various types of plastics found on modern light-duty highway vehicles. Information is included for the repair and refinishing of most plastic body parts, both interior and exterior. Repair information is described for all commonly used plastics including, but not limited to, polyurethanes, polycarbonate blends, modified polypropylenes, polyethylenes and nylons. Repairs can be made to these types of plastics using two-part (2K) repair adhesives, plastic welding, and other materials available from body shop suppliers. When a new type of plastic is being introduced to the market through a new vehicle program, specific repair and refinishing procedures should be provided, following the format in this document.

Sheet-molded compounds (SMC), fiber-reinforced plastics (FRP) and carbon fiber reinforced plastics can also be repaired using slightly different procedures and repair materials.

1.1 Purpose

The average composition of plastics and composites in U.S. vehicles has increased from approximately 230 pounds in 1995 to 350 pounds in 2008, with several types being used for structural and mechanical applications. Interior and exterior plastic body parts have become an integral part of the automotive design, reducing overall weight to aid in increasing fuel efficiency. The use of plastic compounds for these parts has expanded to include many variations of plastics and blends of plastics over the years. This document is intended to guide vehicle manufacturers, material suppliers, and equipment suppliers in providing timely repair information to repairers and insurers. Providing this information prior to vehicle introduction is necessary to allow damaged vehicles to be restored to their pre-accident condition.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

SAE J1344 Marking of Plastic Parts

SAE J2376 New-Vehicle Collision Repair Information

3. REPAIRABILITY

Determine the severity of damage to each part (Can the part be repaired?). Next determine the cost of the part (Is it worth repairing?). Plastic body parts are either repaired or replaced with new OEM, Aftermarket, or Recycled Parts (Turn in old for a repaired part).

4. PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements should conform to SAE J2376.

5. TECHNICAL CONTENTS

5.1 Regardless of the repair method used, refer to the product supplier's instructions for proper application of the product being used.

5.2 Safety Precautions

Include special warnings and procedures, related to vehicle repair, to avoid personal injury and property damage. It is not necessary to include standard industrial safety practices.

5.2.1 Personal Protection

Include recommended safety equipment and precautions.

5.2.2 Hazardous Materials

Include information on use of Material Safety Data Sheets, handling and disposal.

5.3 Tools and Materials

Include information on recommended tools and materials.

5.4 Plastic Identification

Include methods of and special procedures for material identification. Examples include consulting manufacturer's literature; locating ISO codes for plastic type on the back of the part (requires part removal); conducting a "floater test", or conducting a visual inspection. Consult SAE J1344 for additional information.