

Automotive Parts Certification



Safe and Crashworthy; NSF-Certified Structural Parts

Automotive parts certified under the NSF Automotive Parts Certification Program must demonstrate comparable performance to that of the original equipment (OE) service parts in order to carry the NSF Mark. In this way, the consumer is assured that when their vehicle is repaired with NSF-Certified parts the function of their vehicle's collision management system has been properly and effectively restored to its pre-accident condition.

Extensive testing is required by NSF for each individual part submitted for certification. In addition to comprehensive dimensional and material strength testing, all bumpers, reinforcement bars and step bumpers submitted for certification are required to meet the strict requirements of a Quasi-Static Pole Test. This industry-leading testing approach is grounded in work conducted by one of the past leading industry experts, James R. Hackney. Mr. Hackney was a former NHTSA Director of Crashworthiness Standards and coauthor of the "New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) - 5 Star Safety Ratings."

The Quasi-Static Pole Test as designed by Mr. Hackney is used by NSF to test bumpers, reinforcement bars and step bumpers to determine load carrying and energy-resistance performance. This 'system level' test evaluates the material strength of the parts while at the same time it evaluates material thickness, weld strength as well as the base design of the part. Both aftermarket parts and OE service parts are tested side by side to ensure that the system performance of the two parts are directly comparable to one another on a test that is run under dynamic loading of 12 inches per minute.

Industry-accepted dynamic and destructive testing has shown that NSF-Certified parts are comparable to OE service parts in terms of crashworthiness. A recently conducted crash test by a major independent organization showed an aftermarket bumper that is now NSF-Certified to be comparable to that of an original equipment manufacturers part. This is in addition to the many crash tests run by part manufacturers, distributors and others that show the crashworthiness of aftermarket parts made to the NSF Certification requirements.

Why NSF International?

NSF is recognized globally as one of the premier registrars of automotive manufacturing facilities. NSF is one of the top three ISO/TS registrars in the U.S., with more than 350 automotive-focused auditors supporting the program. NSF's 4,500 automotive clients include both OEMs such as Nissan and Honda as well as major parts manufacturers including Federal-Mogul, Goodyear and Johnson Controls.

Contact Us

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