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Sourced From: The Los Angeles Times 08-05-01

Tougher California Lemon Law Snarls Automakers & Dealers; Only 2-Chances To Fix Life-Threatening Defects

Situation

- 1 . California state lawmakers stiffened lemon law last year
- 2 . Manufacturer has 2 (was 4) chances to fix life-threatening defects in vehicle
- 3 . After 2-attempts, vehicle must be branded "lemon"
- 4 . Requires automaker replace or refund owner
- 5 . Manufacturer has 4-chances to fix non-life-threatening defects
- 6 . Dealers often caught between customer & manufacturer for lemon vehicle claims

Significant Points

- 1 . Isuzu loses appeal of lemon law case in San Diego, refused to repurchase 1998 Rodeo
- 2 . Appellate court upheld jury verdict, opinion sites Isuzu's policy on lemon-law repairs is unreasonable
- 3 . Lacks good-faith effort to honor statutory obligations to repurchase defective cars
- 4 . Manufacturers' responses to lemon-law requests vary widely
- 5 . Request still counts as repair lemon law attempt even if mechanic can't/ won't fix defect brought to dealer's attention

Background

- 1 . Drivers have 18 months or 18,000 miles to make claim
- 2 . Law also triggered if vehicle out of service for repairs 30 days during above period

Web Source

http://www.latimes.com/news/custom/highway1/la-000062507aug01_story

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