

**Audi > C5 > 1998-2005**  
**Body Interior**  
**69 - Safety requirements for airbags**

**Safety precautions when working on airbags**

**CAUTION!**

- ◆ **Testing, removing, installing and repair work must only be performed by qualified, trained Service department personnel.**
- ◆ **Never use test lamp, voltmeter or ohmmeter for checking.**
- ◆ **Airbag systems are only to be checked using vehicle diagnostic, testing and information system VAS 5051 A /5052.**
- ◆ **Always disconnect the battery Ground (GND) strap before working on the airbag system. No waiting time is necessary after disconnecting the battery.**
- ◆ **When connecting the airbag system to battery positive voltage (B+), there must be no person inside the vehicle.**
- ◆ **A technician must be electrostatically discharged before picking up (touching) an airbag unit . This is accomplished by touching a suitable metal part, for example, a water pipe, a heating pipe or a metal frame.**
- ◆ **Install a new airbag unit in the vehicle as soon as the unit is removed from the packaging. If the work is interrupted, place the airbag unit back in its packaging.**
- ◆ **Do not leave an undeployed airbag unit unattended if work is interrupted.**
- ◆ **Always place an airbag unit that has been removed from its packaging with the padded side facing upward.**
- ◆ **Airbag components are not to be opened or repaired. Always use new parts.**
- ◆ **Airbag units which have been dropped onto a hard surface or exhibit signs of damage are not to be re-fitted.**

**CAUTION!**

- ◆ **Airbag units which have dropped onto a hard surface or show signs of damage must not be installed in the vehicle.**
- ◆ **Airbag units which have not been activated should be marked and**

returned to the manufacturer for disposal (use airbag unit transport container).

- ◆ Always replace any airbag system component that has been mechanically damaged (example: dented or cracked).
- ◆ The storage and transportation of airbag units must comply with the regulations for explosive substances.
- ◆ Only install original seat covers that have been authorized for use with side airbags (recognizable by AIRBAG label).
- ◆ Do not install commercially available loose fitting seat covers.
- ◆ When installing a backrest cover ensure that the cover seam is straight in the area of the side airbag.
- ◆ Replace all seat cover clips.
- ◆ Only use original seat cover clips.
- ◆ For safety reasons always replace the seat cover if it is damaged in area of the side airbag, e.g. torn, burn holes, etc.

## CAUTION!

**Before beginning repairs on the electrical system:**

- ◆ Obtain the anti-theft radio security code.
- ◆ Switch the ignition off.
- ◆ Disconnect the battery Ground (GND) strap.
- ◆ On vehicles equipped with Audi Telematics by OnStar, switch-off the emergency (back-up) battery for the Telematic/Telephone Control Module prior to disconnecting vehicle battery ⇒ Communication - Repair Group 01
- ◆ After reconnecting vehicle battery, re-code and check operation of anti-theft radio. Also check operation of clock and power windows according to Repair Manual and/or Owners Manual.
- ◆ After reconnecting vehicle battery on vehicles equipped with Audi Telematics by OnStar, switch-on the emergency (back-up) battery for the Telematic/Telephone Control Module ⇒ Communication - Repair Group 01

Always observe the following sequence when replacing an airbag unit:

- 1 - Remove old airbag unit and lay down with padded side facing up, for side curtain airbag, observe additional safety precautions for side curtain airbags ⇒ [Additional safety precautions for side curtain airbags](#) .
- 2 - Remove new airbag unit from packaging and set down with padded side facing up, for side curtain airbag, observe additional safety precautions for side curtain airbags ⇒ [Additional safety precautions for side curtain airbags](#) .
- 3 - Immediately place old airbag unit in packaging
- 4 - Install new airbag unit in vehicle.

- ◆ Airbag units have a limited service life (a sticker showing the replacement date is attached to the B-pillar). When an airbag unit is replaced, pull the sticker off the new airbag unit and stick it over the old sticker on the B-pillar. Airbag units and sticker must be replaced after 14 years.
- ◆ If the vehicle does not have a sticker on the B-pillar, an entry must be made in the Service Schedule to record the airbag replacement.
- ◆ Non-triggered airbag units are to be marked and returned to the manufacturer for disposal (use airbag unit transportation container).
- ◆ Never treat airbag units with grease, cleaning agents or the like or expose them to temperatures in excess of 100 °C even for brief periods.