

Country Companies Settles Class Action Suit in Illinois for \$6.3 Million.

Country Companies, a Bloomington, IL insurer, has settled a class action lawsuit for the use of non-OEM parts for \$6.3 million. The company was sued for breach of contract and insurance fraud for specifying and/or installing non-OEM crash parts on policyholders' vehicles. Country Companies maintains settling was the best thing for their policyholders instead of pursuing lengthy and costly litigation. Each class member will receive money back and the refund will be the same whether or not non-OEM parts were used.

Country Companies has suspended the use of non-OEM parts until January 1, 2003.