Occumant Classification Systems (OCS)  
Occupant Presence Sensors (OPS)  
Passenger Presence System (PPS)

DISCLAIMER: Serious injury or death can be a result of improper removal/ installation techniques.  
Follow manufacturer’s instructions for disabling Restraint Systems  
PRIOR to working on any airbag component.

Airbags are a dangerous and powerful safety restraint system and should not be taken lightly or tampered with. If you are not a qualified/ certified technician, seek the help of a professional to service the airbag system on your vehicle.

The National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration (NHTSA) has mandated that starting in the 2006 model year all automobiles be equipped with an automatic suppression system to detect the presence of a child or infant and suppress the airbag.

The vehicle occupant classification system determines the occupant weight, position and vulnerability to injury during an accident. The information obtained from these new sensors help the airbag computer determine the rate of deployment (if any) to protect the occupant. This information is collected using an array of sensors depending on the manufacturer.

Bladder Style Seat Sensors

Both of these sensors systems, bladder or mounting sensors, determine whether the passenger seat is empty or occupied. If the seat is occupied, they determine whether it contains an infant in a child seat (front or rear facing in some cases), small child, woman or full size adult.

Seat Mounting Sensors

These systems classify the occupant and help deploy the airbag at lower speeds, or not at all depending on the parameters programmed from the manufacturer.

Calibration

Calibration of these sensors is critical and needs to be performed any time a passenger airbag, control unit or passenger seat is deployed, serviced or replaced. The calibration process uses a controlled series of weights and sensing equipment in conjunction with the existing airbag system scanner. The OCS is an integral part of the new “smart” airbag system and WILL causer the “airbag warning light” to illuminate if the system has been damaged or interrupted.