

insider info.

Checking Airbag Harnesses

You may have wondered how the airbag control unit can tell if one of the airbag connectors is double locked or not. (The double locks are the green snap connections that need to be closed after the connectors are mated together). Inside each connector that has the green slider on it there is a spring type mechanism that shorts between two of the wires each time the green double lock is not in the lock position.

This shorting between the wires is detectable by the airbag control unit. The control unit can then issue a code for unlocked connectors. Certain sections of the airbag harness that go to the airbag itself also have a shorting plate that shorts the two wires of the airbag circuit together when the connector is physically separated from its mate. (This plate can be seen by looking at the male pins of the appropriate connector).

These are important points to remember when you are checking a disconnected harness for damage or shorts. The harness may check as shorted even though it is okay. By moving the double lock slide or lifting the shorting plate, the apparent short may go away.