

**PREVENTIVE LAW**

**SERIES**

**Legal Assistance Program**

*TOPIC:*

*LEMON LAWS*

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If you have questions concerning the topic  
of this pamphlet, please contact the  
Legal Assistance Office

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**Legal Assistance Office**  
**Phone: 226-4022**

**Office of the**  
**Staff Judge Advocate**  
**Misawa AB, Japan**

## “LEMON LAW”

### **What is a Lemon?**

This is a term used in America to describe a vehicle that continues to have a defect that substantially impairs its use, value, or safety. Generally, if the car has been repaired 4 or more times for the same Defect within the Warranty Period and the Defect has not been fixed, the car qualifies as a Lemon.

### **Do I have a Lemon?**

If the paint is peeling, the light switch came out when you pulled on it, the car makes "funny noises" but otherwise drives just fine, or you found 10 things you don't like about your new car but none of them prevent you from driving it, then **No, you do not have a Lemon.**

If the brakes don't work, the car won't go into reverse gear, the darn thing won't start on cold mornings or hot afternoons, the rear door opens all by itself, the driver's seat wobbles, or the car chugs along at 30 mph when it should be going 50 mph, then **Yes, you may have a Lemon.** Providing you've given the manufacturer an opportunity to repair the defect.

**WARRANTY PROTECTION IN JAPAN** - Japan has warranty protections on new motor vehicles but there are no lemon laws. Warranties vary according to manufacturers, however most warranties cover up to 50,000 km or two years whichever comes first. In addition, if you purchase a used car with warranties, you are entitled to the protections listed in the warranty.