■ AIRBAG DEPLOYMENT PROHIBITION FUNCTION

1. General

This function uses an occupant detection sensor to detect whether or not the front passenger seat is occupied. If the Airbag sensor assembly has determined that the front passenger seat is unoccupied, it prohibits the deployment of the front passenger airbags (front, side, and curtain shield).

2. Occupant Detection Sensor

The occupant detection sensor, which is enclosed in the seat cushion of the front passenger seat, is used to detect whether or not the front passenger seat is occupied.

This sensor, which is shaped as illustrated below, consists of a construction in which two sheets of electrodes sandwich a spacer. When the occupant is seated, the electrode sheets come in contact with each other through the hole that is provided in the spacer portion, thus enabling the current to flow. As a result, the airbag sensor assembly detects the presence of the occupant. This sensor is basically the same as the occupant detection sensor of the conventional seat belt warning system, except that it is shaped differently.

