



U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline  
**Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire**  
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects  
1-888-DASH-2-DOT  
(1-888-327-4236)  
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100161

Date Received: 15-MAY-2003  
Repository:   
Reference No.: 10018929

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name: [Redacted]  
Address: [Redacted]  
City: CORONA State: CA Zip Code: [Redacted]

Daytime Telephone Number: [Redacted] E-mail Address: [Redacted]  
Evening Telephone Number: [Redacted]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide copies of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?  
In the absence of an answer, we will use the name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.  
Signature of Owner: [Redacted] Date: 5/16/03  NO

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (located at bottom of windshield or driver's side): 161YYG2G3V8103738  
Make: CHEVROLET Model: CORVETTE Model Year: 1997  
Date Purchased: 7/97 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number: SANTA MONICA AUTO GROUP  
Original Owner:  Dealer's City: SANTA MONICA State: CA Zip Code: [Redacted]  
Engine: 651 No. Cylinders: 8 Fuel Type: SUPERULEN  
Transmission Type: AUTO  
 Antilock Brakes Powertrain: [Redacted]  
 Cruise Control  
Vehicle Component Code: 012000 STEERING COLUMN  
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s): 2-9-99-2003 Failure Mileage: 30K-90K Failure Speed: 0

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make: [Redacted] Tire Model (Name or Number): [Redacted] Tire Size (Example P215/65R15): [Redacted]  
DOT No. (Example: DOTM1BABC098): [Redacted]  Original Equipment  Prior Repair Failure Location: [Redacted]  
Tire Component Code: [Redacted] Tire Failure Type: [Redacted]

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: [Redacted] Date Manufactured: [Redacted] Model No./Name: [Redacted]  
Seat Type: [Redacted] Installation System: [Redacted]  
Child Seat Component Code: [Redacted] Failed Part: [Redacted]

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash:  Yes  No Fire:  Yes  No  
Number of Persons Injured: 0 Number of Deaths: 0 Reported to Police: N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).  
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

THE VEHICLE EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS WITH THE STEERING COLUMN. \*NUM

SEE ATTACHMENT

MY WIFE AND I PURCHASED THIS 1997 CORVETTE IN JULY 1997 FROM SANTA MONICA AUTO GROUP.

WITHIN THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS I WOULD START UP THE VET, SHIFT IT INTO DRIVE OR REVERSE AND START DRIVING. THEN I NOTICED THE STEERING COLUMN WOULD LOCK UP AND YOU CAN STEER THE VET.

THIS HAPPEN A COUPLE OF TIMES AND I ENDED UP TOWING IT TO THE DEALER AND THEY STATED EVERYTHING WAS FINE. THEY STATED IT WAS THE COMPUTER AND GAVE ME AN OK.

I SOON LEARNED IF THE STEERING COLUMN LOCKED.  
WAYS OF UNLOCKING:  
TURN OFF THE ENGINE, WAIT FOR A FEW MINUTES, THEN TRY AGAIN,  
OR DISCONNECT THE BATTERY AND LET IT RESET  
OR PULL THE STEERING WHEEL BACK AND FORTH  
OR PUT THE KEY, HIT THE START AND PULL THE STEERING WHEEL.

FROM 1997 - 2001 THE COLUMN LOCKED APPROX 24 TIMES OFF AND ON.

THEN IN 2002 THE COLUMN LOCKED EVERY TIME I STARTED THE VET. I TOOK IT TO THE DEALER AND TO FIX THE PROBLEM THEY INSTALL A NEW COLUMN LOCK. THE COLUMN STILL LOCKED ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE.

THEN IN 2003 THE COLUMN LOCKED EVERYTHING YOU STARTED THE VET. I TOOK IT INTO THE DEALER AND THE FIX WAS TO INSTALL A BYPASS SO THE COLUMN WOULD NEVER LOCKED.