



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
(1-888-327-4238) SEP 28 AM 11:34
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100182

Date Received

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10089592

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

BOSTON

State MA

Zip Code 02215

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☐ YES ☒ NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner _____ Date 9/28/03

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit vehicle Identification Number located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

Make

MITSUBISHI

Model

ECLIPSE SPYDER

Model Year

2001

4A3AE55 H01E

Date Purchased

9/2000

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Webster Motors (781) 933-1100

Engine

No. Cylinders 6

Fuel Type:

Gas

Original Owner

☒

Dealer's City

State

Zip Code

Transmission Type

MANUAL

☒ Antilock Brakes

☒ Cruise Control

Powertrain

FRONT WHEEL DRIVE

Vehicle Component Code

201000 WHEELS:RIM

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)

02-AUG-2003

Failure Mileage

18000

Failure Speed

between 20-65 mph

17" aluminum alloy rims

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM18BAC036)

☐ Original Equipment

☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

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

Number of Deaths

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).

17 INCH RIMS ARE BRITTLE, AND WHEN THE VEHICLE APPROACHES A BEND OR DIP IN THE ROAD, THE TIRE SEPARATE FROM THE RIM, ALLOWING AIR TO ESCAPE. VEHICLE HAS BEEN BACK TO THE DEALER FOR AN EVALUATION, AND WAS TOLD THAT THEY FOUND NO DEFECT. IT WAS PROBABLY THE ROAD CONDITIONS. DEALER WAS NOT ACKNOWLEDGING ANY DEFECT. *AK

More info: these rims bend under normal road conditions. They are very soft. When the car goes over a small bump or pothole, even at reasonable speeds (25 mph) the bending occurs. This causes the tire to separate from the rim & the air escapes slowly. The rim must then be repaired by a specialist - \$100+ each time. Sometimes, the tire is destroyed. (see reverse side)

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoices.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your responses may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

I have repaired tires 4 times. I replaced 2 tires due to this problem. Invoices attached will demonstrate roughly \$900.00 in out-of-pocket expenses. One time, the problem happened on a highway (55-65 mph) - the rim bent and air escaped as always - except this time, due to the high speed, the tire exploded and I nearly crashed. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

Called auto mfr. refused to reimburse and provide new tires. Claims this is not a problem.

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U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 73173 WASHINGTON, D.C.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NHTL HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-216
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

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NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

**VEHICLE
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QUESTIONNAIRE**

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
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ON

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and dial toll free at

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(DASH) 2 DOT



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<http://www.nhtsa.gov>

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY
PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**