



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-DA5H-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received

02-JUN-2006

Repository ☐Reference No.
10158868**OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)**

Name

Address

City

LAS VEGAS

State

NV

Zip Code

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 6/1/06

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side
1Y1SK5 _____

Make
GEO

Model
PRIZM

Model Year
1990

Date Purchased
01-MAR-95

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number
FAIRWAY CHEVROLET

Engine:
No. Cylinders 4

Fuel Type:
Gas

Original Owner
☐

Dealer's City
LAS VEGAS

State
NV

Zip Code
89102

Transmission Type
AUTOMATIC

☐ Antilock Brakes
☐ Cruise Control

Powertrain

Vehicle Component Code
151300 SEAT BELTS:FRONT:RETRACTOR

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)
02-JUN-2006

Failure Mileage
125500

Failure Speed

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: DOTM19ABC036)

☐ 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).

DT: THE CONTACT STATED THE DRIVER'S SIDE SEAT BELT WILL NOT RETRACT. THIS OCCURS EVERY TIME THE SEAT BELT IS USED. THE VEHICLE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY ACCIDENTS THAT WOULD HAVE CAUSED THIS FAILURE. THE MANUFACTURER AND DEALER WERE CONTACTED; THE SEAT BELT COULD NOT LONGER BE REPLACED DUE TO THE AVAILABILITY OF THE PARTS. THERE ARE NO AFTER MARKET PARTS AVAILABLE AS WELL.

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

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 response 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)

See attached page

This questionnaire and the attached page with its two attachments sent via certified mail, article number 7004-1160-0005-9859-4304, with return receipt requested.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

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



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 73173 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-210
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590



Think your vehicle
has a safety defect?



Use the enclosed
card to file a report.

or visit

www.safercar.gov

or call:

Vehicle Safety Hotline

888-327-4236



Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ)
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Attachment to U.S. Dep't of Transportation/NHTSA Form "Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire" 02-Jun-2006, Reference No. 10158868 from [REDACTED] Las Vegas Nv [REDACTED] (702) 878-4249

I wish to make a correction to the date of purchase and from whom the vehicle was purchased: It was purchased on 02-28-95 from Fletcher Jones Chevrolet here in Las Vegas Nv. Although Fletcher Jones has dealerships here in Las Vegas for other makes of automobiles, they sold their Chevrolet dealership a long time ago to Bill Heard Chevrolet which is also here in Las Vegas.

It was about six months ago that my driver's seat belt would no longer retract by itself. I was told by several parties knowledgeable about automobiles that when a seat is in that condition, that it would not restrain me in the event of an accident.

The Geo Prism was a joint manufacturing venture by Chevrolet and Toyota. When I went to the auto parts department of Chevrolet, it informed me that the seat belt was no longer available for my car, nor, would the seat belt for later model years fit. The Toyota auto parts department told me they could get me one designed for the Toyota which would fit my Geo Prism. I went ahead and ordered it on my credit card, but, unfortunately, when the part arrived, it turned out that it wouldn't fit. (See the two attached photo-copies pertaining to the sale and refund of the purchase.)

I then called practically every auto salvage yard here in Las Vegas. Some told me they didn't have anything. A few told me they did, but, when I went down there to get it, it turned out that what they thought would fit did not.

Someone suggested to me that I get an after market lap belt instead of trying to get a replacement for my shoulder type. So, I called Pep Boys to see if they had one. They told me they did and that the cost was only \$15.00. I was overjoyed. But, when I asked their service department if they would install it for me, it informed me that Pep Boys did not install lap belts for fear of liability. I then asked the Chevrolet service department, the Toyota service department, and a self-employed auto mechanic if they would install it for me. ***They all declined for fear of liability!***

As a last resort, someone recommended I make a nation-wide search on the internet for the seat belt and to do it by going to car-parts.com. I did, but, kept getting a message saying they could find no match for my car and seat belt.

Attachment to U.S. DOT/NHTSA Form. S. I. Auerbach (Con't)

As you can see from the foregoing, I have tried everything to get either a new or used seat belt, but, have come up empty. In a couple of months, I will be 75 years old. I am a conservative and vigilant driver. However, the traffic here in Las Vegas is horrendous and I fear what would happen to me in the event of an accident ***where I have neither air bags , or, even a seat belt!***

I'm hoping that you will be able to help me and I thank you in advance for any consideration given to my request.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

2 Attachments (Photo-Copies)

1. Parts Invoice & Credit Memo
2. Sales & Credit Slips

June 9, 2008

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).