



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 100148

Date Received

06-OCT-2006

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10170116

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

POMPTON LAKES

State NJ

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 ____/____/____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

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

WDBJF65J72B

Make

MERCEDES BENZ

Model

E CLASS

Model Year

2002

Date Purchased
05-MAY-02

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Engine:

No: Cylinders 6

Fuel Type:

Gas

Original Owner

☒

Dealer's City

State

Zip Code

Transmission Type

☒

Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

☒

Cruise Control

REAR WHEEL DRIVE

Vehicle Component Code

500000 CHILD SEAT

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)

20-SEP-2006

Failure Mileage

35000

Failure Speed

5

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: BRITAX

Date Manufactured: 12-MAY-2005

Model No./Name: BRITAX

Seat Type: INTEGRATED

Installation System: Vehicle Safety Belt

Child Seat Component Code: 555000

Failed Part: CHILD SEAT: HARNESS

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

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 WHILE DRIVING 5 MPH, THE CHILD WAS OBSERVED UNLATCHING THE LEVER AND LOOSENING THE ENTIRE HARNESS. THE SYSTEM USED TO SECURE THE SEAT WAS A LAP BELT COMBINATION FOR A FORWARD FACING CHILD SEAT. THE CONTACT ALERTED THE MANUFACTURER, BUT NO RESOLUTION WAS PROVIDED. MAKE: BRITAX, MODEL: MARATHON, MODEL#E9L0627, DOM: 05/12/05, *AK

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 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.

While driving at approximately 5 MPH (09/20/2006) in heavy traffic I noticed that my 21-month-old son was moving around in his car seat more than he normally could. I pulled onto the shoulder of the road and saw that the harness of his car seat was loose. At first I thought I might not have tightened the harness. I then tightened the harness and pulled back onto the road. As I drove, I noticed that my son was once again moving around in his car seat. I pulled off the road onto the shoulder a second time and again tightened the harness. This time I remained on the shoulder to see how the harness was being loosened. I observed my son grabbing hold of the harness adjustment strap. He then pulled back on the strap and at the same time leaned forward. Pulling back on the strap caused the harness release lever to be depressed. His weight against the harness released the harness. I tightened the harness and I tucked the harness adjustment strap under the car seat, hoping that he would be unable to release the harness a third time. Tucking the strap under the seat only solved the problem for a short time. My son discovered that he could hook the strap with his feet, grab the strap, and would again loosen the harness. Then he realized that if he opened the flap (held by velcro) that covered the release lever he could reach down and release the lever with his hand.

I own a second BRITAX car seat. This one is a ROUNDABOUT model. The ROUNDABOUT has a release button and not a release lever. I removed the BRITAX, MARATHON from my car and installed the BRITAX, ROUNDABOUT in its place. My son can no longer loosen his harness.