



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

2008 JAN 6 PM 2:49

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	Repository <input type="checkbox"/>
03-DEC-2008	Reference No. 10250626

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name			
Address			
City	ANN ARBOR	State	MI
Zip Code			

Daytime Telephone Number	E-mail Address
Fax Telephone Number	

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?
In the absence of an address to the vehicle manufacturer. YES NO
Signature of Owner _____ Date 12/27/08

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side 9BWF61J81	Make VOLKSWAGEN	Model GOLF	Model Year 2003
Date Purchased 2002	Dealer's Name and Telephone Number Howard Cooper 734 761 3200		Engine: No: Cylinders A
Original Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dealer's City Ann Arbor	State MI	Zip Code 48104
Transmission Type Manual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antilock Brakes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cruise Control	Powertrain	Incident Date(s) 01-DEC-2008
		Multiple Failure: Glow Plug system + Brake lights	

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Vehicle Component Codes: 120000 EXTERIOR LIGHTING, 030000 SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC, 110000 ELECTRICAL SYSTEM	Failure Mileage 118000	Failure Speed 70
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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: DOTM9ABC036)	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Persons Injured 0	Number of Deaths 0	Reported to Police N
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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).

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 2003 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF. WHILE DRIVING APPROXIMATELY 70 MPH ON NORMAL ROAD CONDITIONS, THE BRAKE LIGHTS FAILED. THE GLOW PLUG WARNING INDICATOR ILLUMINATED INTERMITTENTLY ON THE INSTRUMENT PANEL. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO AN AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR DIAGNOSTIC TESTING. THE FAILURE WAS RELATED TO THE WIRING CIRCUIT IN THE BRAKE SYSTEM. THE TECHNICIAN ORDERED THE PARTS FOR THE REPAIR. THE VEHICLE HAS NOT YET BEEN REPAIRED. THE FAILURE AND CURRENT MILEAGES WERE 118,000.

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.

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

This car is a hatchback. There are wiring bundles that pass from the body into the rear hatch for the center brake light, rear windshield wiper & electric lock. These wire bundles flex whenever the hatch is opened or closed. Repeated opening & closing of the resultant wire flexure caused ~~the~~ cracking of some of the wire insulation leading to a short. The short blew one fuse which feeds all of the brake lights & the glow plug system. Thus all brake lights failed, including the outer lights, which are not fed by flexing wire bundles. If the car had been parked in a remote location ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY in cold weather it could not have been restarted due ~~to~~ to this wiring failure.

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE. Washington, D.C. 20077-9382

Official Business Penalty for Private Use \$300



NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1888 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

US Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-210
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, D.C. 20077-9382



Think your vehicle has a safety defect?



If so:

Use the enclosed form 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

The government should write a regulation for cars built in the future that states:

Electrical items fed by wiring subject to flexing due opening & closing of doors, hatches, trunk lids, etc. should not share a fuse with other critical electrical items such as exterior lights, safety systems, or systems required for engine operation or starting.