

U.S. Department
of TransportationNational Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ)

NATIONWIDE 1-888-DASH-2-DOT

1-888-327-4236

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 258

Date Received

07-NOV-2000

 Od_or _____
 rt_dt _____
 od_rt _____
 up_ltr _____

Reference No.

735940

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

Signature of Owner _____ Date ____/____/____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) _____ <small>(Listed at front of windshield or drivers side)</small>	Vehicle Make MERCEDES BENZ	Vehicle Model 320SL	Vehicle Year 1998	Current Odometer Reading		
Purchase Date 01-MAR-1998	Dealer's Name _____	Engine Size (CID/CC/L) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Turbo <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injection			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Used	City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	No. Cylinders _____				
Transmission Type <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic	Antilock Brakes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Restraint System <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbell <input type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag	Cruise Control <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Drive Train <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Ult <input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Body Style <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Door <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Door <input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component 08100000	Part Name(s) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: BATTERY	Location <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear	Failed Part(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement
No. of Failures 1	Date(s) of Failure(s) 08-AUG-2000 Mileage at Failure(s) <5000 Vehicle Speed at Failure(s) 0	Failed Part(s) Available? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	NHTSA Previously Contacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

APPLICATION INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies) on the back of this form.)

Crash <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Persons Injured 0	Number of Fatalities 0	Estimated Property Damage	Reported to Police <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
---	---	---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------	---

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)

BATTERY "EXPLODED" TRYING TO START CAR. BATTERY ACID WAS SPREYED ALL ABOUT, AND ACRID FUMES FILLED OUR GARAGE. WAS COMPENSATED \$2500 BY MERCEDES AND THE DEALER OFFERED A NEW VEHICAL "AT COST" WHICH WE ACCEPTED. WERE TOLD THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME A BATTERY HAD EXPLODED IN A ML320. THESE BATTERIES AND/OR THE IGNITION SYSTEM NEED TO BE RECALLED. FORTUNATELY NO ONE WAS HURT IN THIS INCIDENT, BUT IT DID OCCUR IN A GARAGE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO GAS LINES AND PILOT LIGHTS FOR THE WATER HEATER AND HOME HEATING UNIT, WITH MY WIFE AND CHILDREN IN THE CAR. THANK GOODNESS THEY DIDN'T ALL BLOW UP WITH THE BATTERY! *AK

CONTINUED ON BACK PLEASE

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.