



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Auto Safety Hotline

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

NATIONWIDE 1-800-424-9393
DC METRO AREA (202) 366-0123
INTERNET: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 258

Date Received

20-JUL-2001

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Reference No.

748788

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>(Location at bottom of and/or above dashboard)</small>	Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model	Vehicle Year	Current Odometer Reading
WDBHA28E6VA499317	MERCEDES BENZ	MERCEDES BEN	1997	

Purchase Date 01-AUG-1997	Dealer's Name _____	Engine Size (CID/CC/L) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Turbo <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injectio
<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 type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbelt <input type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Bel <input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag	Cruise Control <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Drive Train <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Util <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4-Door <input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component 12110000	Part Name(s) INTERIOR SYSTEMS:PASSIVE RESTRAINT:AIR BAG	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 Failure 1	Date(s) of Failure(s) 13-JUN-2001 41700	Failed Part(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	NHTSA Previously <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Mileage at Failure(s) _____			

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	Number of Fatalities	Estimated Property Damag	Reported to Police <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)

I LEASED THE CAR AS NEW IN 1997 FOR 3 YEARS. LAST AUGUST, 2000, I PURCHASED THE VEHICLE OUTRIGHT. ONE MONTH AGO, I STARTED GETTING WATER LEAKING UNDER THE DASHBOARD, PASSENGER SIDE WHEN IT RAINED. DEALERSHIP STATES IT NOT A REPORTED DEFECT, WHICH I HAVE DOUBTS TO BE TRUE. MERCEDES TOOK MY COMPLAINT, BUT THEY TOLD ME IT WAS AN OUTSIDE T CAUSED THAT, LIKE WIND AND RAIN. THIS RAIN SHORTED THE SRS (SUPPLEMENTAL RESTRAINT SYSTEM, IE. AIRBAGS) WHICH THE BOX IS LOCATED UNDER THE PASSENGER SEAT, AND I HAD ELECTRIC SEATS! PAY \$40,000. FOR A (SUPPOSEDLY) QUALITY CAR AND ALL THEY CAN DO IS UNCLOG THE DRAIN HOLES. SO THIS COULD HAPPEN AGAIN!! RIDICULOUS. THE ISSUE PRESENTS A SAFETY PROBLEM WHEREBY THE AIRBAGS WILL NOT ACTIVATE IN AN ACCIDENT! THIS TO ME, IS A MANUFACTURER'S DEFECT

CONFIDENTIAL - KEEP IT

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.