



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

22-AUG-2001

Od\_or \_\_\_\_\_  
rt\_dt \_\_\_\_\_  
od\_rt \_\_\_\_\_  
ip\_lr \_\_\_\_\_

Reference No.

750914

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)<br><small>(Locate at bottom of<br/>windshield or driver's side)</small> | Vehicle Make  | Vehicle Model | Vehicle Year | Current Odometer Reading |
| 4JGAB72E7XA063872                                                                                | MERCEDES BENZ | ML430         | 1999         |                          |

|                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Purchase Date<br>01-OCT-1998                                                                          | Dealer's Name _____                                                                                                           | Engine Size<br>(CID/CC/L) 4.3 LI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo<br><input type="checkbox"/> Diesel<br><input type="checkbox"/> Gas<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injection                                                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Used                                 | City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____                                                                                         | No Cylinders _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Transmission Type<br><input type="checkbox"/> Manual<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic | Antilock Brakes<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No                                     | Restraint System<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbelt<br><input type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Bel<br><input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag                     | Cruise Control<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                       | Drive Train<br><input type="checkbox"/> Front<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rear<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel | Vehicle Type<br><input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Util<br><input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Truck<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | Body Style<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2-Door<br><input type="checkbox"/> 4-Door<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

## FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

|                       |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                             |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Component<br>07300000 | Part Name(s)<br>POWER TRAIN:TRANSMISSION:AUTOMATIC                     | Location<br><input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right<br><input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear | Failed Part(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Original<br><input type="checkbox"/> Replacement |
| No of Failure<br>4    | Date(s) of Failure(s) 16-JUN-2001<br>40000<br>Mileage at Failure(s) 30 | Failed Part(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                               | NHTSA Previously<br><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<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Fire<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Number of Persons Injured | Number of Fatalities | Estimated Property Damag | Reported to Police<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

I HAD JUST FILLED VEHICLE AND BOAT BEING TOWED WITH GAS AND WAS CROSSING 4-LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY TO ENTER HIGHWAY. UPON COMPLETION OF TURN ONTO HIGHWAY I STEPPED ON THE GAS TO GAIN NORMAL SPEED AND NOT IMPEED THE NOW APPROACHING STREAM OF TRAFFIC. AS I DEPRESSED THE GAS, THE ENGINE WOULD REV SLIGHTLY BUT WITHOUT ANY INCREASE IN SPEED. THE TRAFFIC IS NOW QUICKLY GAINING ON ME WITH THE BOAT AND TRAILER AND I AM AFFRAID THAT AN ACCIDENT MIGHT OCCUR IF THE CAR DOES NOT BEGIN TO GAIN MORE SPEED. AS I CONTINUE TO ADD MORE AND MORE GAS, THE CAR SUDDENLY DOWN SHIFTS AND JUMPS FORWARD WITH A LURCH AND I QUICKLY LESSEN THE GAS SO AS NOT TO CAUSE DAMAGE WITH THE BOAT. I AM ABLE NOW TO ACCELERATE NORMALLY AND QUICKLY GAIN SPEED BEFORE BEING ANY MORE OF A PROBLEM FOR OTHER TRAFFIC. T

CONTINUE ON REVERSE

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.