



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 252

Date Received

23-FEB-2001

Od_or _____
rt_dt _____
pd_rt _____
rp_lr _____

Reference No.

881368

Work Number

Home Number

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

SHELDON KUSSELSON 676377
15105 WINSTED LANE
SILVERSPRING MD 20905

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) (Location at bottom of windshield and driver's side)	Vehicle Make HONDA	Vehicle Model ACCORD	Vehicle Year 1995	Current Odometer Reading
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Purchase Date	Dealer's Name _____	Engine Size (CID/CC/L) _____	☐ Turbo ☐ Diesel ☐ Gas ☐ Fuel Injection
☐ New ☒ Used	City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	No Cylinders _____	

Transmission Type ☐ Manual ☐ Automatic	Antilock Brakes ☐ Yes ☒ No	Restraint System ☐ 3-Point Belt ☐ Motorbelt ☐ Driverside Airbag ☐ 2-Point Bel ☐ Passengerside Airbag	Cruise Control ☐ Yes ☒ No	Drive Train ☐ Front ☐ Rear ☐ 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type ☐ Car ☐ Sport Util ☐ Van ☐ Truck ☐ Minivan ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Other _____	Body Style ☐ 2-Door ☐ 4-Door ☐ Stationwagon ☐ Pick Up Truck ☐ Other _____
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FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component 05150030 05150000	Part Name(s) ENGINE:VALVES:VALVE TRAIN ENGINE:OTHER PARTS	Location ☐ Left ☐ Right ☐ Front ☐ Rear	Failed Part(s) ☐ Original ☐ Replacement
No of Failure 0	Date(s) of Failure(s) C8-FEB-2001 Mileage at Failure(s) 0	Failed Part(s) ☐ Yes ☐ No	NHTSA Previously ☐ Yes ☐ 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 ☐ Yes ☒ No	Fire ☐ Yes ☒ No	Number of Persons Injured 0	Number of Fatalities 0	Estimated Property Damag	Reported to Police ☐ Yes ☒ No
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)

A VALVE CONNECTED TO ENGINE BROKE, CAUSING DAMAGE TO A CYLINDER HEAD. DEALERSHIP WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM. *AK

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

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 252	
		Date Received MAR 13 PM 2:00 23-FEB-2001 DEFECES INVESTIGATION	Od_or _____ rt_dt _____ od_rt _____ up_lr _____ Reference No. 881368
OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)		Work Number _____ Home Number _____	
Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? in the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.		☒ YES ☐ NO	
Signature of Owner		Date <u>3/13/01</u>	
VEHICLE INFORMATION			
Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) (located at bottom of windshield on driver's side) <u>1HGCE1821SA010190</u>	Vehicle Make <u>HONDA</u>	Vehicle Model <u>ACCORD</u>	Vehicle Year <u>1995</u>
		Current Odometer Reading <u>72,195</u>	
Purchase Date <u>Aug. 27, 1995</u> ☒ New ☐ Used	Dealer's Name <u>Orrisman Honda</u> City <u>Bethesda</u> State <u>MD</u> Zip Code <u>20814</u>		Engine Size (CID/CC) <u>2.2</u> No Cylinders <u>4</u> ☐ Turbo ☐ Diesel ☐ Gas ☒ Fuel Injection
Transmission Type ☐ Manual ☒ Automatic	Antilock Brakes ☐ Yes ☒ No	Restraint System ☒ 3-Point Belt ☐ Motorbelt ☒ Driverside Airbag ☒ 2-Point Belt ☒ Passengerside Airbag <u>Center-Rear</u>	Cruise Control ☒ Yes ☐ No
		Drive Train ☒ Front ☐ Rear ☐ 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type ☒ Car ☐ Sport Ult ☐ Truck ☐ Van ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Minivan ☐ Other <u>Station Wagon</u>
Body Style ☐ 2-Door ☐ 4-Door ☒ Stationwagon ☐ Pick Up Truck ☐ Other			
FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION			
Component <u>06150038</u> <u>05150004</u>	Part Name(s) <u>ENGINE:VALVES:VALVE TRAIN</u> <u>ENGINE:OTHER PARTS</u>	Location ☐ Left ☐ Right ☐ Front ☐ Rear	Failed Part(s) ☒ Original ☐ Replacement
No of Failures <u>0</u>	Date(s) of Failure(s) <u>08-FEB-2001</u> Mileage at Failure(s) <u>72,195</u> Vehicle Speed at Failure(s) <u>n</u>		Failed Part(s) Available? ☒ Yes ☐ No <u>Some are available</u>
NHTSA Previously Contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ 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 ☐ Yes ☒ No	Fire ☐ Yes ☒ No	Number of Persons Injured <u>0</u>	Number of Fatalities <u>0</u>
		Estimated Property Damage <u>\$2448.85</u>	Reported to Police ☐ Yes ☒ No
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)			
A VALVE CONNECTED TO ENGINE BROKE, CAUSING DAMAGE TO A CYLINDER HEAD. DEALERSHIP WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM. *AK			
CONTINUE ON BACK IF NEEDED			
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.			

[REDACTED]
March 10, 2001

President Hiroyuki Yoshino
Honda America
1918 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

Dear Sir,

On Thursday, February 8, 2001, at about 3:20 PM, my 1995 Honda Accord station wagon (VIN 1HGCE1821SA010190) died in the middle of early rush hour traffic. I was alone in the car, going to pick up my son from school. There was no warning; it happened while stopped at a traffic light. This car is maintained according to schedule and had 72,795 miles on it when it ceased to function. With the help of police, the car was moved off the main road so that traffic could proceed. It was towed to a nearby AAA approved repair facility where it was examined the next day.

The problem turned out to be a broken valve which caused the timing belt to jump time. This, in turn, damaged the cylinder head. The oil pan had to be removed to retrieve the broken parts. The engine also had to be tested and examined to determine if there was any damage to it. The mechanic mentioned that he had only seen such a catastrophic event twice before in his long career of servicing cars. This was so rare that Honda did not even have the necessary replacement part in stock; it had to be specially ordered. I was without the car for a week.

Now that I have the car back, I am fearful whenever I get in it, thinking that the same thing may happen again. Between my husband and myself we have had four other cars (one Dodge and three Toyotas) that have gone 117,000 miles, 113,000 miles, 140,000 miles, 169,500 miles (this one still on the road) without any catastrophic failures. Our first Honda may now be our last.

To me, safety and reliability are the most important factors in a car, and the Honda failed miserably as a reliable car. The part that caused this catastrophic failure is not even mentioned in the manual's maintenance checklist. Had I been on an interstate when the car stopped without warning (hence, without brake lights to signal following vehicles), other cars would most likely have plowed into me. In this case, the reliability of the car also affected its safety. This is a serious failure on the part of a car that is supposed to be one of the best on the market. There was apparently nothing I could have done to prevent this from happening—a fact that is very frightening to a woman traveling alone.

This was not a serviceable, replaceable part that failed; it wasn't even easily obtainable. This was the very heart of the car. Is there something inherently wrong with this part? Is this a manufacturer's defect? These are questions that demand answers.

The damaged valve led to an automobile that, essentially, stopped dead in its tracks. This is a serious safety and reliability issue that needs to be addressed. The reasons for the occurrence of such a problem need to be determined. The consequences of this incident could have been far worse than they were. As it was, this was not a simple repair; the costs and time involved were enormous. Some restitution and assurances need to be made.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. If you wish to contact me by phone, my number is

[REDACTED]
Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

cc: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration