

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21V-389

Manufacturer Name : Tesla, Inc.

Submission Date : JUL 09, 2021

NHTSA Recall No. : 21V-389

Manufacturer Recall No. : SB-21-20-001



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Tesla, Inc.

Address : 3500 Deer Creek Road
Palo Alto CA 94304

Company phone : 650-413-4000

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 5,530

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2020 Tesla Model 3

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Select MY 2018-20 Model 3 vehicles with similar manufacturing records.

Production Dates : JUL 06, 2018 - MAR 21, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2019-2021 Tesla Model Y

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Select MY 2019-21 Model Y vehicles with similar manufacturing records.

Production Dates : SEP 17, 2019 - MAR 29, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The driver- and front-passenger shoulder belt portion of the seat belt system is attached to the b-pillar through a top loop. More specifically, the top loop is attached to an actuating bracket with a secured fastener, and the actuating bracket is attached to the b-pillar with another secured fastener. During assembly, one or both fasteners may not have been secured to the correct specifications.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : While we are not aware of any crash or injury resulting from this condition, if

Description of the Safety Risk :	either fastener that secures the shoulder belt top loop to the b-pillar is not secured to the correct specification, then the seat belt system may not perform as designed in a crash, which may increase the risk of injury.
Description of the Cause :	During assembly, if the operator could not achieve the specified torque and angle requirements while securing either fastener that secures the shoulder belt top loop to the b-pillar, then, per standard protocol, a non-conformance was generated that required subsequent manual inspection and repair of the fastener. During this inspection, the fastener may not have been confirmed to be secured to the correct specification.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	The shoulder belt top loop of the seat belt system is adjustable on the b-pillar in a vertical direction. If either fastener that secures the shoulder belt top loop to the b-pillar is not secured to the correct specification, then an occupant may not be able to adjust the shoulder belt top loop.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : NR

Component Description : Driver- & front-passenger shoulder belt top loop attachment

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

On March 17, 2021, during an unrelated repair of a MY 2021 Model Y, Tesla Service discovered that both fasteners that secure the shoulder belt top loop to the b-pillar were not secured to the correct specifications.

On March 19, 2021, the Factory Quality team initiated a failure analysis of the field incident.

During March 2021, the Factory Quality team analyzed assembly and repair records of the VIN. The records showed that during the assembly step operation to attach the shoulder belt top loop to the b-pillar, the operator could not achieve the specified torque and angle requirements while securing both fasteners, which,

per standard protocol, generated a nonconformance for subsequent inspection and repair. The records also showed that, during the inspection, the fasteners were repaired and confirmed secured to the correct specifications. After further review, it was determined that the inspection and repair were incomplete and incorrectly recorded.

From March through April 2021, the failure analysis was expanded with a review of historical assembly and repair records of other Model 3 and Model Y vehicles to confirm the suspected root cause and determine whether the field incident was unique or potentially the result of another root cause. A field study was initiated to validate whether other vehicles with the same or similar torque records showed the condition, during which time we identified one other vehicle with a similar condition.

In May 2021, the Factory Team completed the field study and torque record review, confirming the suspected root cause and potentially affected population.

On May 18, 2021, a recall determination was made.

As of this filing, Tesla is not aware of any crash or injury related to this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	On affected vehicles, Tesla Service will inspect and, if necessary, repair both fasteners that secure the shoulder belt top loop to the b-pillar to confirm that they are secured to the correct specifications. In the unlikely event that damage to the b-pillar hole threads and/or top loop is found during the inspection, Tesla Service will repair the hole threads and/or replace the top loop.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	Confirmed torque and angle of the fasteners to the correct specifications.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	On April 4, 2021, out of an abundance of caution while the failure analysis continued, production manager confirmation and approval were implemented in the assembly step to close any nonconformance inspection and repair of either fastener.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	All Tesla stores and service centers will be notified on or about May 26, 2021. Owner notification letters will be mailed in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 577.7.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	MAY 27, 2021 - MAY 27, 2021
Planned Owner Notification Date :	JUL 23, 2021 - JUL 23, 2021

* NR - Not Reported