



July 11, 2019

We are responding to your inquiry regarding an incident involving your Tesla vehicle on May 6, 2019. Tesla reviewed the vehicle's diagnostic log from the time of the incident, the results of which we discussed with you. As we discussed, based on this review, Tesla determined that the vehicle operated without fault and that the accelerator pedal was manually pressed by the driver immediately prior to the incident.

Your Tesla vehicle contains two independent sensors in the accelerator pedal that monitor the physical position of the pedal. None of the vehicle's controls (e.g., Autopilot, Traffic Aware Cruise Control, etc.) have the ability to physically move this pedal. If the pedal moves, as confirmed by these sensors, the movement is caused by an external source such as the driver's foot.

According to the vehicle's diagnostic log, immediately prior to the incident, the accelerator pedal was released, regenerative braking was engaged and slowing the vehicle, and the steering wheel was turned to the right. Then, while the vehicle was traveling at approximately 5 miles per hour and the steering wheel was turned sharply to the right, the accelerator pedal was manually pressed and over about one second, increased from approximately 0% to as high as 88%. During this time, the vehicle speed appropriately increased in response to the driver's manual accelerator pedal input. In the next two seconds, the accelerator pedal was released, the brake pedal was manually pressed, which also engaged the Anti-Lock Braking System, multiple crash-related alerts and signals were triggered, and the vehicle came to a stop.

Please note that the brakes in your vehicle are hydraulic and are completely distinct from the motor control, and there is no common fault that would cause a simultaneous failure of both the braking system and motor control. In other words, manually pressing the brake pedal does not cause the vehicle to accelerate and, irrespective of the accelerator input, sustained application of the brake pedal will slow or stop the vehicle; in some cases, manually pressing the brake pedal will override the accelerator pedal input and cut motor torque. You should also note that brake pedal application is monitored using completely distinct sensors from the accelerator pedal sensors, providing another independent signal recording the driver's actions.

Safety is of paramount importance to Tesla. We design our vehicles with particular attention to motor control safety and diligently investigate all complaints of vehicle malfunction. In addition to redundant accelerator pedal sensors, your Tesla vehicle also contains an independent monitor that continuously compares the readings from both of these sensors, and both sensor readings must remain consistent in order for the vehicle to provide full acceleration. Should an anomaly be detected in either sensor, a fault code would be set and the vehicle would enter a fail-safe mode. No such fault code was set in your vehicle and the vehicle responded properly and as designed in response to the accelerator pedal being pressed.

Regardless of the results of our investigation, we recognize how upsetting an incident like this can be. We hope that the above information is helpful for your understanding of what happened at the time of the incident.

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to investigate this incident.

Sincerely,

Associate Service Manager, North America Service