



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 23-006
Date Opened: 03/24/2023
Investigator: Roy Nelson
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Front seat belt anchor detachment
Reviewer: Gregory Magno

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Tesla, Inc.
Products: 2022-2023 Model X
Population: 50,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Front seat belt linkage detachment from pretensioner anchor

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE)

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received two recent complaints reporting a failure of the front seat belt to remain connected to the seat belt anchor pretensioner while driving with seat belts worn properly in 2022 and 2023 Model Year Tesla Model X vehicles. Both vehicles were delivered to the owners with insufficiently connected anchor linkages.

Tesla front seats incorporate outboard pretensioners secured to the seat frame. The pretensioner anchor is designed to be disconnected with a special tool. The two allegations indicate that the connection failure occurred at this point. In both cases, the pretensioner and the linkage were not properly connected during assembly, resulting in friction fit maintaining the connection between the two until eventual separation. The linkage and the pretensioner suddenly separated when the force exerted on the linkage overcame the resistance of the friction fit while the vehicles were in motion. Both known incidents occurred at low vehicle mileage. Neither incident involved a vehicle collision.

A PE has been opened to assess the scope, frequency, and manufacturing processes associated with this condition.

The ODI reports cited above can be viewed at <http://www.nhtsa.gov> under the ODI identification number 11471239, 11501249.