

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17V-639

Manufacturer Name : Tesla Motors, Inc.

Submission Date : OCT 12, 2017

NHTSA Recall No. : 17V-639

Manufacturer Recall No. : SB-17-13-004



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Tesla Motors, Inc.

Address : 3500 Deer Creek Road

Palo Alto CA 94304

Company phone : 650-413-4000

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 4,582

Estimated percentage with defect : 3 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2016-2017 Tesla Model X

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : All Tesla Model X electric vehicles built with second row 60/40 folding bench seat before additional seat production process controls were added on August 16, 2017

Production Dates : OCT 28, 2016 - SEP 01, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : On certain 2016 and 2017 Model X with fold-flat second row seats, the left-side fold-flat second row seat may have a misadjusted cable that controls the recliner mechanisms. Seats in this condition may not fully comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 207/210. There have been no reports of a recliner failing to perform as intended as a result of this condition. The condition has not resulted in any injuries or crashes.

FMVSS 1 : 207 - Seating systems

FMVSS 2 : 210 - Seat belt assembly anchorages

Description of the Safety Risk : Seats in this condition may not fully comply with the seating requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 207/210. If this condition were to occur, the seat back may move forward during a crash, increasing the risk of injury. However, Tesla is unaware of any instances where this condition caused a recliner to fail to perform as intended.

Description of the Cause : On affected vehicles, the second row left seat contains two recliner mechanisms. These two recliners are released by cables that include in-line cable length adjusters. During seat assembly, recliner cable adjustment may have been set when the recliners were not fully latched. If this occurred, the

resulting cable adjustment could be too tight, preventing one of the recliners from fully latching.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR
Address : NR
NR
Country : NR

Chronology :

- August 11, 2017. Analysis of a seat used in an unrelated internal validation test indicated that one of the seat's recliners was not fully latched at the time of the test and that this occurred due to a cable that was too tight. The test seat was built outside the seat production line, so subsequent engineering analysis was performed to determine sensitivity of production seats to cable adjustment.
- August 16, 2017. Tesla implemented seat production process enhancements. A recliner locking fixture was added to the seat production process to ensure both recliners are fully latched during the cable installation and adjustment process. In addition, a shim was added to the seat production process that adds an extra 2.5mm of slack to the post-adjustment cable length.
- August 16, 2017 to September 28, 2017. Seats that had already been assembled were inspected at the factory. No seats with misadjusted recliner cables were found. Analysis continued in an effort to determine the potential for cables to have been adjusted too tight in production.
- September 28, 2017. Despite finding no misadjusted seats within the production process and having received no reports of seat performance concerns, Tesla initiated a field engineering study to check cable adjustment on vehicles in the field. For this study, Tesla service centers took a measurement on vehicles already in for service to identify whether any seats in the field had misadjusted cables.
- October 5, 2017. A Tesla engineer flew to a service center to inspect a seat that had been identified by the field engineering study as having a potentially misadjusted cable. This inspection confirmed that the seat was out of adjustment.
- October 6, 2017. Tesla decided to initiate a recall campaign in order to reset the adjustment of a cable that controls the recliner mechanisms on the left-side fold-flat second row seat on all affected vehicles.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Tesla will reset the adjustment of the cable that controls the recliner mechanisms on the left-side fold-flat second row seat on potentially affected vehicles.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The recall involves only cable adjustment and does not require component replacement.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : On August 16, 2017, a recliner locking fixture was added to the seat production process to ensure both recliners are fully latched during the cable installation and adjustment process. In addition, a shim was added to the seat production process that adds an extra 2.5mm of slack to the post-adjustment cable length. See chronology of events for further details.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : All Tesla stores and service centers will be notified on or about October 12, 2017. Customers will be sent a courtesy email alerting them to the recall on or about October 12, 2017. Owner notification letters will be mailed out following NHTSA submission.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 12, 2017 - OCT 12, 2017

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 12, 2017 - NOV 09, 2017

* NR - Not Reported