

Date of submission: 7/30/2021

FSA #: 21C18

Certain 2021 and 2022 model year Ford Transit and 2021 Ford Transit Connect Vehicles
Passenger Seat Belt Automatic Locking Retractor Function

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination:

On June 10, 2021, Autoliv informed Ford of a concern on certain seat belt assemblies with ALRs that may not function correctly.

Autoliv's investigation determined that certain seat belt assemblies manufactured by Autoliv between October 26, 2020, and January 27, 2021, have an ALR that may deactivate early. An Autoliv sub-supplier (ITW Automotive) supplied subcomponents that were dimensionally out of tolerance, which may prevent the ALR from functioning as intended. Autoliv determined that these seat belt assemblies do not comply with FMVSS 208 S7.1.1.5, which requires each designated seating position, except the driver's position, to have "a seat belt assembly whose lap belt portion is lockable so that the seat belt assembly can be used to tightly secure a child restraint system."

Autoliv communicated to Ford that they planned on submitting a Part 573 to the NHTSA for a technical non-compliance based upon information above.

On June 15, 2021, Ford's Critical Concerns Review Group opened an investigation based upon information received from Autoliv.

June-July 2021 – Ford investigated the scope of vehicles that may have been produced with suspect seat belt assemblies. It was determined that 2021 Transit Connect vehicles built between November 27, 2020-March 15, 2021, and 2021/2022 Transit vehicles built between January 12, 2021-July 12, 2021, may contain the suspect assemblies. Suspect seat belt assemblies at Ford assembly plants that were not yet assembled in vehicles were quarantined and scrapped. Vehicles with suspect assemblies at Ford Assembly plants were put on hold and retrofitted with non-suspect assemblies. After thorough analysis of part lot traceability and plant records, it was determined that a population of vehicles were shipped with the suspect assemblies.

Ford assessed the potential performance effect of the suspect seat belt assemblies in affected Ford vehicles.

On **July 26, 2021**, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

Ford is not aware of any reports of accident or injury related to this condition.