Part 573 Safety Recall Report 23V-235

Manufacturer Name : Tesla, Inc.
Submission Date : MAR 31, 2023
NHTSA Recall No. : 23V-235
Manufacturer Recall No. : SB-23-31-001

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Tesla, Inc.
Address : 1 Tesla Road
Austin TX 78725
Company phone : 6506815000

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 422
Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2019 Tesla Model 3
Vehicle Type :
Body Style :
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : The recall population includes select MY 2018-19 Model 3 vehicles and was determined based upon a review of manufacturing records.
Production Dates : JAN 05, 2018 - MAR 30, 2019
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The front suspension lateral link on Model 3 vehicles is attached to the sub-frame using two fasteners. Manufacturing records and customer complaints suggest that there may be a correlation between certain manufacturing record characteristics and the fastener loosening over time. A loose fastener could cause the lateral link to separate from the sub-frame.

FMVSS 1 : NR
FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If a fastener becomes loose enough or separates from the sub-frame such that the lateral link separates from the sub-frame, the wheel alignment could shift and cause instability, which may adversely impact vehicle controllability and increase the risk of a collision.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : If the fasteners that secure the lateral link to the sub-fame become loose, abnormal noise may occur and be detectable by the customer from the front suspension.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 :	BOLT,HF,M14-2.0x65,STL[109],ZNFL
Component Description :	Front lateral link to subframe bolt
Component Part Number :	1109912-00-A

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	NR
Address :	NR
	NR
Country :	NR

Chronology :

- From January 2022 to March 16, 2023, Tesla received and investigated customer complaints alleging lateral link separation or unusual noises from lateral links. Investigation into the production records for these vehicles showed all torque and angle values fall within production control limits, but a correlation was identified between vehicles with customer complaints and certain torque and angle record characteristics.

- On March 17, 2023, although the production records do not indicate low torque values or missing bolts, out of an abundance of caution, Tesla made the determination to file a voluntary recall to inspect and repair, as necessary, the population of vehicles identified through the investigation described above.

- From service data covering January 2018 through March 2023, Tesla identified 25 warranty claims and 2 field reports (occurring between January 4, 2019, and December 23, 2022) that are related to or may be related to this condition. Tesla is not aware of any crashes, injuries, or deaths related to this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	Tesla Service will inspect affected vehicles for proper torque of the fasteners that secure both front suspension lateral links to the sub-frame. If a loose or missing fastener is found during the inspection, Tesla Service will re-torque the fastener to the correct specification. In the unlikely event that vehicle damage from a loose or missing fastener is found during the inspection, Tesla Service will replace the damaged component. Customers who have replaced the lateral link fasteners or other components at their own expense due to this issue prior to the recall notification may be eligible for reimbursement per Tesla's General Recall Reimbursement Plan.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	Confirmed torque and angle of each fastener to the correct specifications.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	A multi-spindle tool, which secures the fasteners simultaneously, has been applied to the assembly step along with improved torque angle controls.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	All Tesla stores and service centers will be notified on or shortly after April 4, 2023. Owner notification letters will be mailed in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 577.7.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	APR 04, 2023 - APR 04, 2023
Planned Owner Notification Date :	MAY 30, 2023 - MAY 30, 2023

* NR - Not Reported