

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 21E-052

**Manufacturer Name :** Autoliv, Inc.

**Submission Date :** JUN 14, 2021

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21E-052

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** N/A



### Manufacturer Information :

### Population :

**Manufacturer Name :** Autoliv, Inc.

**Number of potentially involved :** 76,986

**Address :** KLARABERGSVIADUKTEN 70, WORLD  
SECTION E, 6TH FLOOR, SE-111 64  
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN 00 28326

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 1 %

**Company phone :** 248-475-0442

### Equipment Information :

**Brand / Trade 1 :** Autoliv

**Model :** Seat Belt Assembly

**Part No. :** See Descriptive Info

**Size :** NR

**Function :** NR

**Descriptive Information :** Certain seat belt assemblies manufactured by certain Autoliv Group companies between October 26, 2020 and January 27, 2021 have an automatic locking retractor (ALR) that may deactivate early. An ALR subcomponent supplier supplied subcomponents that were dimensionally out of tolerance, which may prevent the ALR from functioning as intended. The recall population was determined based on a review of production records. The reported "Number Potentially Involved" represents the number of seat belt assemblies that may contain noncompliant components that Autoliv knows were delivered to automotive customers for vehicles in the United States: Audi of America LLC, Mercedes-Benz USA, Ford Motor Company, and Volvo Cars of North America LLC. Autoliv is continuing its investigation by working with other customers to verify whether additional vehicles were imported into the United States that may contain non-compliant components. Autoliv estimates the percentage of seat belt assemblies with the non-compliance to be approximately 0.068%. Autoliv Part Nos: 641369000, 641369400; 633945200, 633953800; 639603400, 649178748, 649179235, 649179248, 649180048; 640104000, 640115800, 640826300, 640827300, 642991200, 642991300.

**Production Dates :** OCT 26, 2020 - JAN 27, 2021

## Description of Noncompliance :

**Description of the Noncompliance :** Autoliv has 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." The subject seat belt assemblies have a feature that converts the retractor from an emergency locking retractor (ELR) to an automatic locking retractor (ALR). The seat belts convert to the ALR mode after the webbing has been fully withdrawn from the retractor. The system is designed so that as the seat belt is released into the retractor, the ALR function remains active so a child restraint seat can be tightly secured. However, in certain seat belt assemblies the ALR function deactivates early before the webbing is fully retracted.

FMVSS 1 : 208 - Occupant crash protection

FMVSS 2 : NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** This noncompliance does not impact the compliance or functionality of the seat belt assemblies with respect to their normal use by adult passengers or use of the LATCH system to secure child restraint seats. With child restraint seats for which the vehicle owner elects to use the seat belt to secure the child restraint seat instead of the LATCH system, even in a braking situation the normal seat belt locking mechanism, or ELR, prevents the seat belt from lengthening and the child restraint seat from moving even if the ALR function is not activated. In addition, in a crash situation, seat belts equipped with pretensioners have the functional equivalent of the ALR function and, as a result, even when the vehicle owner elects to use the seat belt instead of the LATCH system to secure the child restraint seat, there is no increased risk to the safety of child restraint seat occupants.

**Description of the Cause :** The subcomponent supplier of the ALR levers used in the subject seat belt assemblies produced dimensionally out of tolerance parts that may cause the ALR to deactivate before the seat belt webbing is fully retracted.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** A vehicle owner who elects to use the seat belt instead of the LATCH system to secure a child restraint seat will notice that the audible clicking noise made when the ALR function is activated stops well before the seat belt webbing is fully retracted.

## Involved Components :

**Component Name :** ALR (KiSi) Lever

**Component Description :** Lever used for ALR function in seat belt retractor assembly

**Component Part Number :** 603 404 100A

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : ITW Automotive Products GmbH  
Address : Bahnhofstrasse 50A  
Hodenhagen Foreign States 29693  
Country : Germany

## Chronology :

On December 15, 2020, the Autoliv Group facility in Romania noticed an unusual level of rejections at its end-of-line retractor testing station. On December 16, 2020, Autoliv opened an investigation and initiated sorting and containment activities and visual inspections of the subcomponents used in the manufacture of the ALR system for the seat belt assembly. The investigation revealed a sink mark in the functional area of some ALR levers and this dimensional deviation was identified as the possible root cause of the end-of-line rejections. On January 7, 2021, Autoliv raised a quality alert across its global network and initiated a process to contain all suspect ALR levers within its control.

Autoliv continued its investigation into the root cause and the impact the sink mark may have on the ALR function in different retractor configurations. Autoliv also performed comprehensive tests and analysis to evaluate the potential impact on occupant safety. Autoliv's assessment of the impact the sink mark may have on different retractor configurations continues. However, the analysis shows that the seat belt assembly continues to operate as intended and there is no degradation in seat belt performance.

On June 7, 2021, Autoliv's Critical Concern Executive Board determined that noncompliance with FMVSS 208 cannot be ruled out and determined that this Part 573 notice was necessary with regard to certain seat belt assemblies manufactured between October 26, 2020 and January 27, 2021 by certain Autoliv Group companies that may incorporate the suspect ALR levers.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : All potentially affected automotive customers have been informed. If the automotive customers conclude that the information described above presents an issue in their application that needs to be addressed, replacement products will be provided by Autoliv and the appropriate remedy will be developed and shared with NHTSA.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The ALR system in the replacement seat belt assemblies contain ALR levers that were manufactured according to production specification.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Changes to the production parameters at the subcomponent supplier ensure that this issue can no longer occur from January 11, 2021, onward.

## Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Autoliv is an Equipment Manufacturer. If the affected automotive

customers determine that a recall is necessary for their vehicles, they will conduct the recall, including making notification plans and preparing dealer and owner notification letters.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

### Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : Audi of America LLC

Address : 2200 Ferdinand Porsche Dr.  
Herndon VA 20171

Country : US

Company Phone : 8008222834

Name : Mercedes-Benz USA

Address : One Mercedes-Benz Drive  
Sandy Springs GA 30328

Country : US

Company Phone : 8003676372

Name : Ford Motor Company

Address : 1 American Road  
Dearborn MI 48126

Country : US

Company Phone : 3133223000

Name : Volvo Cars of North America LLC

Address : 1 Volvo Drive  
Rockleigh NJ 07647

Country : US

Company Phone : 8005505658

\* NR - Not Reported