

TN-20-20-001 November 30, 2020		Tesla, Inc. Tech Notes
<b>Model:</b>	<b>Vehicle System:</b>	<b>Region:</b>
All	20 - Safety and Restraint	All

## Tech Note: Front Seat Airbag Destructive Removal and Disposal

Tech Notes are announcements that help to communicate and track new information about Tesla Service concerns. Such concerns may or may not be VIN specific. These instructions assume knowledge of motor vehicle and high voltage electrical component repairs and should only be executed by trained professionals. Tesla assumes no liability for injury or property damage due to a failure to properly follow these instructions or for repairs attempted by unqualified individuals.

### General Instructions

When an entire front seat is going to be scrapped, Service Centers must remove the seat-mounted airbag and pre-tensioner (if equipped) from the seat before discarding the seat. Use the procedure in this document to remove the airbag from the seat, and then follow local Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) best practices to dispose of the airbag (for example, place the airbag into the appropriate hazardous waste receptacle located in the Service Center). Afterwards, the seat can be discarded.

Use Correction Code 20010707 to document the labor of destructively removing and disposing of the front seat airbag (and pre-tensioner, if equipped).

**⚠ CAUTION:** Only after removing the airbag and pre-tensioner (if applicable) can the seat be discarded. Do not scrap seats with an airbag or pre-tensioner still installed, and do not place the entire seat into the hazardous waste receptacle or otherwise outsource the work of removing the airbag and pre-tensioner from the seat.

**📖 NOTE:** This document is only applicable to airbags installed in the front seats. Follow best practices for other airbags in the vehicle. Refer to the Airbag and Supplementary Restraint System (SRS) Component Replacement Policy in the Service Manual.

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### Required Supplies

- Safety glasses
- Safety shoes
- Level 2 cut gloves
- Cut sleeves
- 3/8" ratchet and socket
- Narrow nosed pliers
- Box cutter

## Procedure

**⚠ WARNING:** While strict ESD precautions are not necessary, care should be taken not to touch the conductors leading to the explosive devices. Static electricity can build up and force an explosive deployment of the device.

**⚠ WARNING:** Always wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when performing the following procedure.

**⚠ CAUTION:** Never re-use any of the hazardous waste parts; airbags, retractors and pre-tensioners must always be connected to the vehicle in Manufacturing Operating System (MOS) to track vehicle history.

**📄 NOTE:** Model S and Model X front seat airbag removal shown. Procedures for Model 3 and Model Y front seat airbag removal are similar.

1. Remove the seat from the vehicle using the appropriate Service Manual procedure.

**⚠ WARNING:** Do not perform this procedure with the seat installed in the vehicle and connected to power.

2. Use a box cutter to carefully cut along the base of the airbag-side bolster where it meets the seat insert (Figure 1). Extend the cut over the top of the bolster area (Figure 2).

**⚠ WARNING:** Extreme cut hazard. Keep the non-tool hand clear of the path of the blade and cut away from the body.

**📄 NOTE:** This might take several passes with the box cutter, and it might be necessary to hold the seat material taut to complete the cut.

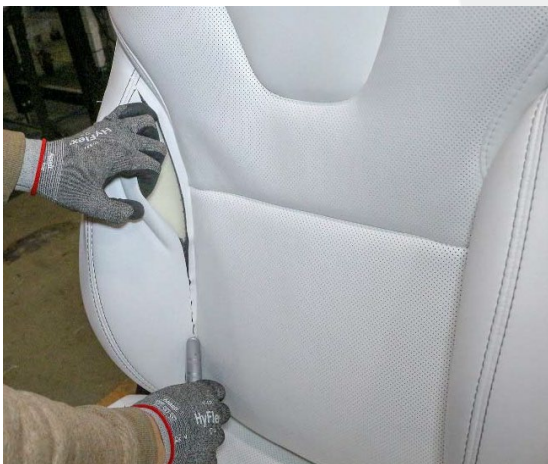


Figure 1



Figure 2

3. Reach into the resulting slot and grip the outer part of the bolster foam (Figure 3), and then tear it (destructively) from the seat. Pull firmly on the bolster foam until it is completely separated from the seat (Figure 4).



Figure 3



Figure 4

4. Using a 3/8" ratchet and socket, remove the two airbag nuts by over-torquing them until the studs break (Figures 5 and 6).

**⚠ CAUTION:** The airbag studs must be broken to prevent the possibility of the airbag being used in another seat assembly.



Figure 5



Figure 6

5. Remove the airbag envelope from the seat (Figure 7), and then clip the airbag harness connector wire to free the airbag from the seat frame (Figure 8).



**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**

**⚠ CAUTION:** Never re-use any hazardous waste parts.

7. Place the airbag into the hazardous waste bin designated for discarded airbags.
8. If the seat is equipped with a 1<sup>st</sup> row outboard lap pre-tensioner, perform the following:
  - a. Remove the pre-tensioner from the seat using the appropriate Service Manual procedure.
  - b. Clip the pre-tensioner harness connector wire to release the pre-tensioner from the seat frame.
  - c. Dispose of the pre-tensioner in the appropriate hazardous waste bin.
9. Dispose of the seat in the appropriate waste receptacle. Once the airbag and the pre-tensioner (if equipped) are removed, the seat can be discarded as non-hazardous material.