

GENERIC · BODY

B0001

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0001

Driver Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control Circuit

B0001 indicates that the airbag control module has detected a fault in the deployment circuit for the driver's frontal airbag, stage 1. This circuit includes the wiring, connectors, and the airbag inflator itself; the module monitors resistance and continuity to ensure the airbag will deploy when commanded.

SYSTEM Body	CODE TYPE Generic (all makes)	SEVERITY High	FIX DIFFICULTY Professional	AREA Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems
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Symptoms you may notice

- Airbag warning light illuminated on the instrument cluster
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Possible intermittent warning light if the fault is a loose connection
- In rare cases, the airbag may not deploy in a collision
- Some vehicles may display a message such as 'Service Airbag System'

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty clock spring (spiral cable) in the steering wheel
- Damaged wiring or connectors in the driver's airbag circuit
- Poor connection at the airbag module or under the seat
- Defective driver's frontal airbag module (stage 1 squib)
- Corrosion or water intrusion in the circuit
- Aftermarket accessories improperly wired into the airbag circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- Inspect the clock spring and wiring for visible damage or wear
- Check connectors at the airbag module and under the driver's seat for tightness and corrosion
- Measure resistance of the stage 1 deployment circuit with a multimeter and compare to specifications
- Perform a wiggle test on the wiring harness while monitoring the airbag module data to identify intermittent faults
- Replace the clock spring if resistance is out of specification or visual damage is found
- Replace the driver's frontal airbag module if the squib is defective
- Clear the fault codes and verify the repair with a scan tool



Common misdiagnosis traps for B0001

- A common mistake is to replace the airbag module without first checking the clock spring, which is a frequent failure point on high-mileage vehicles.
- The code can be set by a loose connector under the driver's seat that gets disturbed when the seat is moved, so always check those connections before condemning the airbag.
- Aftermarket accessories such as remote starters or alarm systems tapped into the airbag wiring can introduce resistance changes that trigger B0001.
- The airbag module itself rarely fails; most B0001 codes are caused by wiring or connector issues, so thorough circuit testing is essential.
- Always disable the airbag system by disconnecting the battery and waiting the specified time before working on any airbag components to avoid accidental deployment.

Can I keep driving with B0001?

Because this fault can prevent the driver's frontal airbag from deploying in a crash, the vehicle should not be driven until the repair is completed. Avoid any impact to the steering wheel or front of the vehicle, and have the system diagnosed by a qualified technician as soon as possible.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with airbag system capability
- Digital multimeter
- Airbag simulators (for testing without deploying)
- Trim removal tools
- Torque wrench

Reading B0001

- B** Body: airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 0** Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems.
- 01** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B0002 Driver Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control · **B0003** Driver Frontal Deployment Loop Resistance Low · **B0004** Driver Frontal Deployment Loop Resistance High · **B0012** Right Front/Passenger Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control · **B0013** Passenger Knee Bolster Deployment Control



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Airbags Work: A 50 km/h Crash in Slow Motion](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0001/>

