

GENERIC · BODY

B0012

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0012

Right Front/Passenger Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control

B0012 indicates that the airbag control module has detected a fault in the deployment circuit for the right front passenger frontal airbag stage 2, which is the second pyrotechnic charge used to tailor airbag inflation force. The module monitors circuit resistance and continuity and sets this code when the measured value falls outside the expected range or the circuit is open or shorted.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

High

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- Airbag warning light illuminated on the instrument cluster
- SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) warning message displayed on the driver information center
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the airbag system otherwise appearing normal
- Passenger frontal airbag may be disabled or deploy with reduced force in a collision
- In some vehicles, the passenger airbag status indicator may show 'off' even with an occupant present

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or chafed wiring in the passenger airbag stage 2 circuit, often at the steering column, under the dash, or near the passenger seat
- 2 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the passenger frontal airbag module or at the airbag control module
- 3 Faulty clock spring (spiral cable) in the steering wheel, which can affect passenger airbag circuits on some vehicles
- 4 Internal failure of the passenger frontal airbag module (stage 2 squib)
- 5 Water intrusion or corrosion in the airbag control module connector or harness
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or previous repairs that disturbed the SRS wiring
- 7 Low battery voltage or a weak charging system causing erratic module behavior



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify battery voltage and charge the battery if low, then clear the code and recheck to rule out a voltage-related false set
- 2 Inspect the passenger frontal airbag connector and the airbag control module connector for corrosion, looseness, or pushed-out pins
- 3 Perform a wiggle test on the passenger airbag harness while watching live resistance data for the stage 2 circuit to locate intermittent faults
- 4 Measure resistance across the passenger frontal airbag stage 2 squib with a meter (following manufacturer precautions) and compare to specification
- 5 Check the clock spring and steering column wiring if the passenger airbag circuit is routed through them on the vehicle
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring and connectors, then clear the code and verify the airbag light goes out and stays out
- 7 If the circuit tests good, substitute a known-good passenger frontal airbag module or airbag control module to isolate the failed component

What the stage 2 circuit really means

- Stage 2 is a separate pyrotechnic charge from stage 1, so a B0012 does not mean the entire passenger airbag is dead; stage 1 may still deploy normally.
- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the passenger airbag module when the real fault is a chafed wire under the passenger seat or behind the glovebox.
- Some vehicles set B0012 when the passenger seat occupancy sensor or its wiring is faulty, because the module disables stage 2 based on occupant detection.
- Clearing the code without repairing the circuit will usually result in the light returning after a few drive cycles, as the module re-tests the circuit on every startup.
- Aftermarket seat covers, phone chargers, or audio installs that disturb the passenger seat wiring are frequent culprits that owners overlook.

Can I keep driving with B0012?

Because this code affects the passenger frontal airbag deployment circuit, the vehicle may not protect the front passenger correctly in a crash. It is safe to drive to a repair shop at low speed, but avoid carrying a front passenger and do not delay diagnosis and repair.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS (airbag) capability
- Digital multimeter with resistance and continuity functions
- Manufacturer service information for airbag circuit specifications and precautions
- Trim removal tools for accessing airbag connectors and wiring
- Test light or logic probe for checking circuit integrity

Reading B0012

- 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.
- 12** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B0011 Right Front/Passenger Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control · **B0013** Passenger Knee Bolster Deployment Control · **B0014** Driver Knee Airbag Deployment Control · **B0015** Passenger Knee Airbag Deployment Control · **B0020** Passenger Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control Circuit

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/b0012/>

