

GENERIC · BODY

**B0017**

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

**B0017**

## Right Front/Passenger Frontal Deployment Loop Short to Battery

B0017 means the airbag control module has detected a short to battery voltage on the right front or passenger frontal deployment loop, which is the wiring circuit that fires the passenger-side front airbag. The module monitors the loop's voltage and flags this code when the circuit reads battery power instead of the expected low reference signal, so it disables that airbag to prevent an unintended deployment.

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 steadily on the instrument cluster
- Passenger frontal airbag automatically disabled with the passenger airbag off indicator lit
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the vehicle driving normally
- Supplemental restraint system (SRS) warning message displayed on the driver information center
- Other airbag-related codes stored alongside B0017 in the restraint module
- In some vehicles, a chime or reminder that the passenger airbag system requires service

### Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Chafed or pinched passenger frontal airbag wiring harness shorting to a battery-positive circuit
- 2 Damaged passenger frontal airbag connector or terminals pushed together with a power wire
- 3 Water intrusion or corrosion in the passenger-side kick panel or under-seat connector causing a short
- 4 Failed passenger frontal airbag module with an internal short to power
- 5 Faulty clockspring or steering column harness on vehicles where the passenger loop routes through it
- 6 Short inside the airbag control module itself
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or alarm wiring tapped into the SRS harness and shorting to battery voltage



## How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all restraint control module codes and freeze-frame data before clearing anything
- 2 Inspect the passenger frontal airbag harness routing for chafing, pinches, or contact with powered circuits
- 3 Disconnect the battery and wait the manufacturer-specified time, then unplug the passenger airbag connector and inspect terminals for corrosion or bridging
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage on the deployment loop with a digital multimeter to confirm the short to battery
- 5 Isolate the short by disconnecting the airbag module and checking the harness side of the circuit for battery voltage
- 6 Repair or replace the damaged harness section or connector, then clear codes and verify the loop reads normal
- 7 If the harness tests good, substitute a known-good airbag module or control module to confirm the failed component before replacement

## Why passenger airbag shorts get misdiagnosed

- A short to battery on the deployment loop is often caused by a harness rubbed through against a power feed in the passenger kick panel or under the seat, not by a failed airbag itself.
- Technicians sometimes replace the passenger airbag only to find the code returns because the short lives in the body harness between the module and the connector.
- Water leaks from a clogged sunroof drain or cowl can corrode the passenger-side SRS connector and create a short that looks like a module failure.
- Aftermarket stereo, alarm, or dash camera wiring tapped into the passenger-side harness is a common hidden cause that a visual inspection of the harness routing will reveal.
- B0017 does not always mean the airbag is defective; the module sets it purely from circuit voltage, so the deployment loop must be tested before any part is condemned.

## Can I keep driving with B0017?

The vehicle remains driveable, but the passenger frontal airbag is disabled and will not deploy in a crash, so avoid carrying a front passenger until the fault is repaired. Do not attempt to test or probe the airbag circuit with the battery connected, because an accidental deployment can cause serious injury.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with restraint system capability
- Digital multimeter with min/max and resistance functions
- Manufacturer service information for SRS connector locations and battery disconnect wait time
- Trim removal tools for accessing passenger kick panel and under-seat connectors
- Insulated hand tools and safety glasses for SRS work



## Reading B0017

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

## Often seen with

**B0016** Right Front/Passenger Frontal Deployment Loop Short to Groun · **B0018** Right Front/Passenger Frontal Deployment Loop Resistance Hig · **B0019** Right Front/Passenger Frontal Deployment Loop Resistance Low · **B0020** Passenger Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control Circuit · **B0021** Left Side Deployment Stage 1 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/b0017/>

