

GENERIC · BODY

B001A

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

B001A

Center Frontal Stage 3 Deployment Control

B001A indicates that the center frontal stage 3 deployment control circuit has a fault, meaning the airbag control module detected an abnormal condition in the wiring or initiator for the third-stage front airbag deployment. This stage is typically a second, higher-power charge in the front airbag system designed to tailor deployment force based on crash severity.

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
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Supplementary restraint system (SRS) may be disabled, increasing injury risk in a collision
- In some vehicles, a message on the driver information center indicating a service restraint system
- Intermittent warning light that comes and goes due to a loose connection

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty clock spring (spiral cable) in the steering wheel, which carries the deployment circuit
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the center frontal stage 3 initiator
- 3 Open or short circuit in the stage 3 deployment circuit
- 4 Defective airbag module (center frontal stage 3 initiator) itself
- 5 Water intrusion or corrosion in the connector or module
- 6 Poor ground connection for the airbag control module
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or previous repairs that disturbed the SRS wiring



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the clock spring and its connectors for visible damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 2 Check the wiring harness from the airbag control module to the stage 3 initiator for continuity and shorts using a multimeter
- 3 Verify the resistance of the stage 3 initiator circuit against the manufacturer's specification
- 4 Inspect and clean the ground connections for the airbag control module
- 5 Replace the clock spring if resistance is out of specification or damage is evident
- 6 Replace the center frontal stage 3 airbag module if the initiator is faulty
- 7 Clear the diagnostic trouble codes and verify the repair with a scan tool

Clock Spring Failures Mimic Stage 3 Faults

- A worn clock spring often causes B001A because the stage 3 circuit runs through the spiral cable, and the fault may only appear when the steering wheel is turned.
- The code can be set by a disconnected or loose connector at the airbag module, which is easily overlooked during visual inspection.
- After any SRS repair, the airbag control module may need to be reprogrammed or the crash data cleared before the light will go out.
- A weak battery or charging system fault can cause intermittent SRS codes, including B001A, so always check battery voltage and grounds first.
- Do not probe airbag connectors with a powered test light; use a digital multimeter and follow the manufacturer's safety procedures to avoid accidental deployment.

Can I keep driving with B001A?

It is not safe to drive with an active airbag fault because the restraint system may not deploy correctly in a crash; have the vehicle diagnosed and repaired by a qualified technician before driving further.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Manufacturer-specific airbag simulator or load tool
- Trim removal tools
- Torque wrench



Reading B001A

- 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.
- 1A** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B0019 Right Front/Passenger Frontal Deployment Loop Resistance Low · **B0020** Passenger Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control Circuit · **B0021** Left Side Deployment Stage 1 Control · **B0022** Left Side Deployment Stage 1 Loop Open

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/b001a/>

