

GENERIC · BODY

B0023

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0023

Left Side Deployment Stage 1 Loop Short to Ground

B0023 indicates that the airbag control module has detected a short to ground in the deployment loop for the left side stage 1 airbag circuit, which is typically the driver's front airbag or a left-side thorax bag depending on the vehicle. The module monitors the loop resistance and voltage and sets this code when the circuit is pulled to ground, preventing proper 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 on the instrument cluster
- SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) message displayed on the driver information center
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Airbag system disabled, so the left-side airbag will not deploy in a collision
- In some vehicles, other safety systems like seatbelt pretensioners may be affected

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Chafed or pinched wiring harness in the steering column or left side of the dash
- 2 Damaged clock spring (spiral cable) inside the steering wheel
- 3 Corroded or loose connector at the left-side airbag module or under the seat
- 4 Internal short to ground in the left-side airbag igniter (squib)
- 5 Water intrusion or debris causing a short in the left-side wiring
- 6 Faulty airbag control module (less common)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the left-side airbag wiring and connectors for visible damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 2 Disconnect the battery and wait for the system to discharge, then check the clock spring for continuity and shorts
- 3 Measure resistance from the left-side airbag connector to ground to confirm the short
- 4 Isolate the short by disconnecting the airbag and checking if the code changes to a different fault
- 5 Repair or replace any damaged wiring, connectors, or the clock spring as needed
- 6 Clear the code and perform a road test to verify the repair
- 7 If the short persists, diagnose the airbag control module or replace it following manufacturer procedures

Before you replace the airbag module

- A short to ground in the left-side deployment loop often originates from a pinched wire under the driver's seat or in the steering column, not from the airbag itself.
- The clock spring is a common failure point because it flexes with every steering wheel turn, and a short there can mimic a faulty airbag.
- Disconnecting the airbag connector and clearing the code may change the fault to an open circuit, which helps confirm the short is in the wiring or airbag.
- Water leaks from a clogged sunroof drain or windshield seal can corrode connectors on the left side and cause this code.
- Always follow the manufacturer's safety procedures for disabling the SRS before working on airbag circuits to avoid accidental deployment.

Can I keep driving with B0023?

The vehicle is not safe to drive because the left-side airbag may not deploy in a collision, increasing the risk of injury. Have the fault diagnosed and repaired before driving, and avoid any impact to the steering wheel or left-side interior panels.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capabilities
- Digital multimeter
- Wire repair kit
- Trim removal tools
- Torque wrench



Reading B0023

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

Often seen with

B0022 Left Side Deployment Stage 1 Loop Open · **B0024** Right Side Deployment Control · **B0025** Left Side Deployment Stage 2 Control · **B0026** Left Side Deployment Stage 2 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/b0023/>

