

GENERIC · BODY

B0034

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0034

Right Side Deployment Stage 2 Control

B0034 indicates that the restraint control module (RCM) has detected a fault in the deployment circuit for the right-side second-stage airbag or pretensioner, which is the second output in a dual-stage deployment strategy. The module monitors circuit resistance and continuity and sets this code when the measured value falls outside the expected range, disabling that stage to prevent an unintended deployment.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Body	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Professional	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
- The right-side airbag may not deploy in a collision, reducing occupant protection
- A related message may appear on the driver information center
- In some vehicles, the seat belt pretensioner on that side may also be disabled

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or chafed wiring in the right-side deployment circuit, often at the seat or door jamb
- Loose or corroded connector at the right-side airbag or pretensioner
- Open or shorted clock spring or spiral cable in the steering column (if the right-side circuit routes through it)
- Failed right-side airbag module or pretensioner with an out-of-range internal resistance
- Faulty restraint control module (RCM) or airbag control unit
- Water intrusion or corrosion in the connector or module
- Aftermarket accessories or previous repair work disturbing the circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Retrieve all stored codes and freeze-frame data with a scan tool capable of reading body codes, and record any related codes before clearing anything
- 2 Inspect the right-side airbag and pretensioner connectors for looseness, corrosion, or pushed-out terminals, and reseal them
- 3 Check the wiring harness along the right side of the vehicle for chafing, pinches, or damage, especially near seat tracks and door hinges
- 4 Measure circuit resistance at the RCM connector with a digital multimeter and compare to the manufacturer's specification
- 5 If resistance is out of range, isolate the fault by disconnecting the airbag or pretensioner and measuring the circuit from the RCM side
- 6 Replace the faulty component (airbag, pretensioner, clock spring, or RCM) only after confirming the circuit integrity
- 7 Clear codes and verify the repair by cycling the ignition and confirming the warning light goes out and the code does not return

Before you replace the right-side airbag

- A common cause of B0034 is a loose connector under the right seat that gets kicked by passengers, not a failed airbag module.
- The code can be set by a shorted or open clock spring even though the fault is described as right-side, because the deployment circuit may route through the steering column on some vehicles.
- Never use a standard ohmmeter to probe an airbag circuit without first disconnecting the battery and waiting the specified time; the meter's voltage can trigger deployment.
- Aftermarket seat covers or audio equipment installed near the right-side airbag can pinch wiring and set this code.
- B0034 does not always mean the airbag itself is defective; the RCM may be reporting a circuit fault that is entirely in the wiring or connectors.

Can I keep driving with B0034?

You can usually drive the vehicle, but the right-side airbag and possibly the pretensioner will not deploy in a crash, so have the fault diagnosed promptly and avoid any driving that risks a collision until repaired.

Tools that help

- Scan tool capable of reading body and airbag codes
- Digital multimeter
- Terminal test kit and back-probe pins
- Trim removal tools
- Torque wrench for airbag fasteners



Reading B0034

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

Often seen with

B0028 Driver Side Curtain Air Bag Deployment Control · **B0029** Right Side Curtain Air Bag Deployment Control
· **B0033** Right Side Deployment Stage 1 Loop Short to Ground · **B0040** Outside Temperature Sensor 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/b0034/>

