

GENERIC · BODY

B003A

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B003A

Second Row Right Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control

B003A indicates that the restraint control module (RCM) has detected a fault in the deployment circuit for the second row right frontal airbag stage 2. The computer monitors the circuit's resistance and continuity, and when the readings fall outside the expected range, it stores this code and typically illuminates the airbag warning light.

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
- The passenger-side second row airbag may be disabled, though this is not always obvious
- In some vehicles, a chime or message may accompany the warning light
- In rare cases, the airbag may deploy unexpectedly, but this is uncommon

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty clock spring or wiring harness in the second row right seat area
- 2 Corroded or damaged electrical connector at the airbag module
- 3 Open or shorted wiring in the deployment circuit
- 4 Defective airbag squib (the initiator inside the airbag module)
- 5 Failed restraint control module (RCM) or airbag control unit
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or previous repairs interfering with the circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the wiring and connectors at the second row right airbag module for damage or corrosion
- 2 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or recalls related to the airbag system for your vehicle
- 3 Use a diagnostic scan tool to read live data and confirm the fault is active, then perform a resistance test on the deployment circuit
- 4 Disconnect the battery and wait the recommended time, then check the resistance of the airbag squib with a multimeter
- 5 Repair or replace any damaged wiring or connectors, following the manufacturer's procedures
- 6 If the circuit tests good, replace the airbag module or the RCM as indicated by further diagnostics
- 7 Clear the codes and verify the repair with a scan tool and test drive

Before you replace the airbag module

- A common mistake is replacing the airbag module when the real problem is a corroded connector under the seat or a chafed wire in the door jamb.
The code can be set by a low battery or a voltage spike during jump-starting, so always check for other low-voltage codes before condemning parts.
- After any repair, the airbag system must be properly initialized with a scan tool; simply clearing the code may not be enough.
- Seat removal or replacement can pinch the wiring harness, causing this code to appear after interior work.
- The second row right frontal airbag may be part of a seat-mounted side airbag assembly on some vehicles, so inspect the entire seat harness.

Can I keep driving with B003A?

Because this code affects the airbag system, the vehicle may not pass safety inspection and the airbag may not deploy in a crash. It is advisable to have the fault diagnosed and repaired promptly, and avoid driving if the airbag warning light is flashing or if you notice any unusual smells or smoke from the seat area.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with airbag system capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery disconnect tool
- Trim removal tools
- Manufacturer service information



Reading B003A

- 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.
- 3A** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B0039 Second Row Right Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control · **B003B** Second Row Right Frontal Stage 3 Deployment Control · **B0040** Outside Temperature Sensor Circuit · **B0041** Third Row Left Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control · **U0151** Lost Communication With Restraints Control Module

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/b003a/>

