

GENERIC · BODY

B0049

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0049

Third Row Right Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control

B0049 indicates that the restraint control module (RCM) has detected a fault in the deployment circuit for the third-row right frontal stage 1 airbag, which is the first-stage inflator for that seating position. The module monitors circuit resistance and continuity and sets this code when the measured values fall outside the expected range, disabling that airbag's deployment capability.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

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
- Third-row right airbag may not deploy in a collision
- Passenger airbag indicator may show 'off' or fault for that zone
- Other restraint system codes may be stored simultaneously
- In some vehicles, a chime or message on the driver information center

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or disconnected wiring harness at the third-row right seat or pillar
- 2 Corroded or loose connector pins at the airbag module or RCM
- 3 Open or shorted stage 1 deployment squib inside the third-row right airbag module
- 4 Faulty restraint control module (RCM) internal driver circuit
- 5 Water intrusion or physical damage to the airbag circuit from cargo or seat movement
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or seat covers pinching or chafing the harness
- 7 Improperly repaired collision damage affecting the third-row wiring



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the third-row right airbag connector and wiring for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 2 Disconnect the battery and wait for the system to discharge, then check circuit resistance with a digital multimeter
- 3 Substitute a known-good airbag simulator or resistor to isolate the module from the squib
- 4 Check for continuity and shorts to ground or power on the stage 1 deployment wires
- 5 If wiring and connectors are good, replace the third-row right airbag module
- 6 If the fault persists with a simulator, diagnose or replace the restraint control module (RCM)
- 7 Clear codes and verify the repair with a scan tool, then confirm no new codes set

Before you replace the third-row airbag

- A common oversight is a partially unseated connector under the third-row seat after cargo loading or seat folding, which mimics a failed airbag module.
- The code does not always mean the airbag itself is bad; the RCM driver circuit or a chafed wire in the seat frame often causes the same resistance fault.
- After any collision repair near the third row, verify that the harness is not pinched between trim panels or seat mechanisms.
- Some vehicles require the RCM to be configured or programmed after replacement, and a used module may not work without proper initialization.
- Never use a standard ohmmeter on an airbag squib without first disconnecting the battery and waiting the specified time, as accidental deployment can occur.

Can I keep driving with B0049?

The vehicle remains safe to drive in normal conditions, but the third-row right frontal airbag will not deploy in a crash, so have the fault repaired promptly. Avoid carrying passengers in that seat until the repair is completed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with airbag system capability
- Digital multimeter
- Airbag simulator or resistor kit
- Trim removal tools
- Battery disconnect tool
- Service manual for torque and safety procedures



Reading B0049

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

Often seen with

B0048 Third Row Right Side Airbag Deployment Control · **B0050** Driver Pretensioner Deployment Control · **B0051** Driver Frontal Deployment Control Open · **B0052** Passenger Seat Belt Sensor · **B0053** Passenger Pretensioner Deployment 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/b0049/>

