

GENERIC · BODY

B004A

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B004A

Third Row Right Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control

B004A indicates that the restraint control module (RCM) has detected a fault in the deployment circuit for the third row right frontal airbag stage 2. This circuit is responsible for firing the second stage of the inflator in a severe collision, and the module monitors its resistance and continuity to ensure it is ready to deploy.

SYSTEM Body	CODE TYPE Generic (all makes)	SEVERITY High	FIX DIFFICULTY Professional	AREA Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems
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Symptoms you may notice

- Airbag warning light illuminated on the instrument cluster
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- The airbag system may be disabled, preventing deployment in a crash
- In some vehicles, a message on the driver information center indicating a service restraint system
- Intermittent warning light if the fault is caused by a loose connection

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or chafed wiring in the third row right seat or pillar area
- Corroded or loose electrical connector at the third row right airbag module
- Faulty third row right frontal airbag stage 2 inflator (open or shorted squib)
- Water intrusion or physical damage to the airbag module or wiring harness
- Internal fault in the restraint control module (RCM)
- Aftermarket accessories or improper previous repairs interfering with the circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the third row right seat area for visible wiring damage, pinched harnesses, or corrosion
- 2 Disconnect the battery and wait for the system to discharge, then check the connector at the airbag module for tightness and cleanliness
- 3 Measure the resistance of the stage 2 squib circuit with a digital multimeter and compare to manufacturer specifications
- 4 Check for continuity and shorts to ground or power on the wiring between the RCM and the airbag module
- 5 If wiring and connectors are good, substitute a known-good airbag module only if the manufacturer allows, to see if the code changes
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring or connectors as needed, following service procedures
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair with a scan tool; if the code persists, diagnose the RCM or seek dealer-level programming

Before you replace the airbag module

- A common mistake is replacing the airbag module when the real problem is a corroded connector under the third row seat, which is often exposed to spills or moisture.
- The code can be set by a low battery or charging system issue that causes a momentary voltage drop, so always check battery health and connections first.
- After any airbag circuit repair, the system must be cleared with a scan tool; simply disconnecting the battery will not turn off the light.
- Seat removal or installation for other repairs can pinch the airbag wiring, leading to this code, so inspect carefully after any interior work.
- This code does not always mean the airbag is defective; it can also be triggered by a faulty RCM or a communication error within the restraint system.

Can I keep driving with B004A?

Because this fault can prevent the third row right frontal airbag from deploying correctly in a crash, have it diagnosed and repaired promptly. Avoid rough roads or any activity that could further damage the wiring, and do not attempt to repair the airbag system yourself without proper training.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with airbag system capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery disconnect tool and memory saver
- Trim removal tools
- Service manual or wiring diagram for the specific vehicle



Reading B004A

- 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.
- 4A** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B004B Third Row Right Frontal Stage 3 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/b004a/>

