

GENERIC · BODY

B0053

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0053

Passenger Pretensioner Deployment Control

B0053 indicates that the supplemental restraint system (SRS) control module has detected a fault in the passenger-side seat belt pretensioner deployment circuit, which is the pyrotechnic device that tightens the belt during a crash. The computer monitors the circuit's resistance and continuity and sets this code when the signal falls outside the expected range, often due to an open circuit, short, or high resistance.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

High

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- SRS warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Passenger seat belt may not retract or lock as designed
- Passenger airbag may be disabled as a fail-safe
- In some vehicles, a chime or message indicating a restraint system fault

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty passenger seat belt pretensioner connector or wiring
- 2 Open or shorted pretensioner squib (the pyrotechnic element)
- 3 Damaged clock spring or wiring harness in the passenger seat area
- 4 Corrosion or water intrusion in the pretensioner circuit
- 5 Failed SRS control module (less common)
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or seat covers interfering with wiring

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the passenger seat belt pretensioner connector for looseness, corrosion, or damage
- 2 Check the pretensioner wiring harness for cuts, chafing, or pinched wires
- 3 Measure the resistance of the pretensioner squib with a multimeter and compare to specification
- 4 Disconnect the battery and wait for the backup power to drain before working on SRS components
- 5 Replace the passenger seat belt pretensioner if resistance is out of range
- 6 Clear the code and verify the repair with a scan tool
- 7 If the code persists, diagnose the SRS control module and its connections



What Most Techs Overlook on B0053

- A common mistake is replacing the pretensioner without first checking the connector and wiring, which are frequent failure points due to seat movement.
- The code can be set by a low battery or voltage spike, so always verify battery health and clear the code before condemning parts.
- Aftermarket seat covers or objects under the passenger seat can damage the pretensioner wiring, leading to this code.
- The SRS module may store this code intermittently; always check for history codes and perform a wiggle test on the harness.
- Replacing the pretensioner requires disconnecting the battery and following safety procedures to avoid accidental deployment.

Can I keep driving with B0053?

Do not drive with an active B0053 code because the passenger pretensioner may not deploy in a crash, increasing injury risk. Have the vehicle inspected and repaired by a qualified technician before driving, and avoid using the passenger seat until fixed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Torque wrench
- Battery disconnect tool

Reading B0053

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

Often seen with

B0052 Passenger Seat Belt Sensor · **B0054** Second Row Center Seat Belt Sensor · **B0055** Second Row Right Seat Belt Sensor · **B0073** Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Loop Short to Ground · **B0074** Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Loop Short to Battery



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/b0053/>

