

GENERIC · BODY

B0061

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0061

Knee Airbag Deployment Loop Open

B0061 means the airbag control module has detected an open circuit in the deployment loop for the knee airbag, which is a supplemental restraint mounted under the dashboard to protect the driver's or passenger's lower legs. The module monitors the loop's resistance and flags this code when the circuit is broken, so the airbag may not deploy in a crash.

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 the only sign
- SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) warning message displayed on the driver information center
- Knee airbag may not deploy in a collision, reducing lower-body protection
- Other airbag-related codes may be stored if the fault affects shared wiring
- No noticeable change in vehicle driveability or handling

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Disconnected or loose electrical connector at the knee airbag module
- 2 Damaged wiring harness between the airbag control module and the knee airbag, often from chafing or pinching
- 3 Corroded or backed-out terminals in the knee airbag connector
- 4 Failed knee airbag inflator or module with an internal open circuit
- 5 Faulty clock spring or spiral cable if the knee airbag circuit is routed through the steering column (less common)
- 6 Water intrusion or physical damage to the wiring or connector
- 7 Airbag control module internal fault causing a false open-circuit detection



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the knee airbag connector under the dashboard for secure engagement and clean terminals; reseal if loose
- 2 Disconnect the battery and wait for the backup power to drain, then check continuity and resistance of the knee airbag squib circuit with a digital multimeter
- 3 Visually trace the wiring harness from the airbag control module to the knee airbag for chafing, cuts, or pinched sections, repairing as needed
- 4 Substitute a known-good knee airbag or a 2-ohm resistor to test the circuit and isolate whether the fault is in the module or the wiring
- 5 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or recall notices specific to the vehicle make and model that address knee airbag wiring
- 6 If wiring and connectors are good, replace the knee airbag module and clear the code
- 7 After repair, clear codes and verify the airbag warning light goes out and stays off during a test drive

Knee airbag open circuit traps

- A common oversight is forgetting to disconnect the battery and wait for the backup power to deplete before working on airbag circuits, which can cause accidental deployment or new codes.
- The code can be set by a poor connection at the airbag control module itself, not just at the knee airbag, so always check both ends of the circuit.
- Aftermarket accessories or audio equipment installed under the dash can pinch or damage the knee airbag wiring, leading to this code.
- Some vehicles use a single connector for multiple airbags; a fault in one circuit can sometimes trigger related codes, so inspect the entire connector.
- A knee airbag open circuit does not always mean the airbag is defective; wiring and connector issues are far more common and should be ruled out first.

Can I keep driving with B0061?

The vehicle remains driveable because the airbag system is supplemental, but the knee airbag will not deploy in a crash, increasing the risk of lower-leg injury. Avoid off-road driving or any activity that could further disturb the wiring, and have the fault repaired promptly.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter with resistance and continuity functions
- OBD-II scan tool capable of reading airbag (SRS) codes
- Battery disconnect tool or wrench
- Trim removal tools for accessing under-dash panels
- 2-ohm test resistor for circuit isolation



Reading B0061

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

Often seen with

B0060 Knee Airbag Deployment Control · **B0062** Knee Airbag Deployment Loop Short to Ground · **B0064** Driver Seat Belt Tension Sensor

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/b0061/>

