

GENERIC · BODY

B0074

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0074

Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Loop Short to Battery

B0074 indicates that the restraint control module has detected a short to battery voltage in the driver seatbelt pretensioner circuit, meaning the deployment loop is receiving power when it should not. This is a critical safety fault because the pretensioner may not deploy correctly in a collision, and the module will typically disable the entire airbag system until the fault is repaired.

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
- Seatbelt warning light may flash or stay on continuously
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with no drivability issues
- The restraint control module may store additional codes for other airbag circuits
- In some vehicles, the airbag system is disabled entirely, offering no protection in a crash

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Chafed or damaged pretensioner wiring harness shorting to a battery-positive wire
- 2 Failed seatbelt pretensioner connector with corrosion or moisture intrusion
- 3 Internal short to voltage inside the seatbelt pretensioner assembly
- 4 Restraint control module internal fault causing a false short-to-battery detection
- 5 Aftermarket accessories or improper electrical repairs tapping into the pretensioner circuit
- 6 Pinched wiring under the seat or at the B-pillar from seat movement or trim work



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the pretensioner wiring harness and connectors for damage, corrosion, or chafing, especially under the seat and at the B-pillar
- 2 Disconnect the battery and wait for the system to discharge, then check for voltage on the pretensioner circuit with a multimeter to confirm the short
- 3 Isolate the fault by disconnecting the pretensioner and rechecking the code; if the code changes to an open circuit, the pretensioner is likely faulty
- 4 Check for aftermarket wiring or accessories that may be incorrectly tied into the pretensioner circuit and remove or repair them
- 5 If the wiring and pretensioner are good, test the restraint control module for internal short-to-battery conditions and replace if necessary
- 6 After repairs, clear the codes and verify the airbag system is fully functional with a scan tool

What the short-to-battery code really means

- A short to battery in the pretensioner loop often occurs when the wiring harness rubs against a power wire, so inspect for chafing where the harness passes through tight spaces.
- The restraint control module may set this code intermittently if the short only occurs when the seat is moved, so wiggle-test the harness while watching live data.
- Do not assume the pretensioner itself is bad; a shorted connector or pinched wire is far more common and much cheaper to fix.
- This code can be set by a low-voltage event or a weak battery during cranking, so always check the battery and charging system before replacing parts.
- If the airbag light is on, the entire supplemental restraint system may be disabled, so repair the fault promptly even if the car drives normally.

Can I keep driving with B0074?

It is not safe to drive with this code because the airbag system may be disabled, leaving you unprotected in a collision. Have the vehicle towed to a repair shop or drive only directly to a service center at low speed, avoiding any situation where a crash could occur.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with airbag system capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery disconnect tool
- Trim removal tools
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle



Reading B0074

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

Often seen with

B0073 Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Loop Short to Ground · **B0075** Second Row Right Seat Belt Pretensioner Deployment Control · **B0076** Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Resistance Low · **B0077** Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Resistance High · **B0078** Third Row Right Seat Belt 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/b0074/>

