

GENERIC · BODY

B0076

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

B0076

Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Resistance Low

B0076 indicates that the restraint control module has measured resistance in the driver seatbelt pretensioner circuit that is below the expected threshold, which usually means a short to ground or a short between the two wires in that circuit. The module sets this code when the circuit's resistance falls outside the factory-programmed window, and it typically disables the pretensioner for that seating position until the fault is repaired.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- The airbag or supplemental restraint system warning light stays illuminated on the instrument cluster.
- A chime or message may appear reminding you to service the restraint system.
- The driver seatbelt pretensioner will not deploy in a collision, reducing occupant protection.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, because the fault is electrical and does not affect normal driving.
- Some vehicles may display a seatbelt reminder that behaves erratically or stays on constantly.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A chafed or pinched pretensioner harness shorting to ground or to the other wire, often at the seat track or door sill.
- 2 Corrosion or water intrusion in the pretensioner connector under the driver seat, especially on vehicles with sunroof drains or wet floor carpets.
- 3 A failed pretensioner squib with an internal short, which is less common but does happen after age or impact history.
- 4 Damaged wiring from seat movement, cargo loading, or previous seat removal and reinstallation.
- 5 A faulty restraint control module that misreads resistance, though this is the least likely cause and should be confirmed last.
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or phone chargers tapped into the seat harness causing a parallel path that lowers measured resistance.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the driver seat pretensioner connector and the harness routing under the seat for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins, and repair as needed.
- 2 Disconnect the battery and wait the manufacturer-specified time, then measure resistance across the pretensioner squib terminals to compare with the factory specification.
- 3 Isolate the pretensioner from the vehicle harness and measure resistance on the module side to determine whether the short is in the wiring or the squib.
- 4 Check for water intrusion or damaged floor wiring under the driver seat and carpet, and dry or repair the affected area.
- 5 If the squib resistance is out of specification, replace the driver seatbelt pretensioner assembly as a unit.
- 6 Clear the code and perform a restraint system self-test, then verify the warning light goes out and the code does not return.
- 7 If all circuits and components test good, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow for the restraint control module before replacing it.

What most technicians miss on B0076

- A seat that has been removed for cleaning or upholstery work often has a pinched pretensioner wire that only shorts when the seat is moved, so wiggle-test the harness while watching live resistance data.
- Water leaking from a clogged sunroof drain or a failed door seal can corrode the pretensioner connector under the driver seat, and the code returns after clearing until the leak is fixed.
- Some scan tools show a resistance value that looks normal at rest but spikes when the seat is adjusted, which points to an intermittent harness short rather than a failed squib.
- A pretensioner that has already deployed in a prior collision may read low resistance and set this code, so check for a deployed or replaced seatbelt assembly before condemning the module.
- Aftermarket seat covers or accessories that pinch the seat harness can set B0076, and the code may not return until the seat is moved through its full travel.

Can I keep driving with B0076?

The vehicle remains safe to drive in normal conditions because the pretensioner is a supplemental restraint, but the driver seatbelt pretensioner will not deploy in a crash, so have the fault repaired promptly and avoid any collision risk until it is fixed.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter with low-ohm capability
- Manufacturer-specific scan tool or restraint system diagnostic software
- Trim removal tools for seat and sill panel access
- Battery disconnect tool or memory saver
- Wiring diagram and factory resistance specifications for the vehicle



Reading B0076

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

Often seen with

B0077 Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Resistance High · **B0078** Third Row Right Seat Belt Pretensioner Deployment Control · **B0079** Driver Seat Belt Pretensioner B Deployment Control · **B0080** Driver Seat Belt Load Limiter Deployment Control · **B0081** Front Passenger Belt Switch Circuit

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/b0076/>

