

GENERIC · BODY

B0079

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

B0079

Driver Seat Belt Pretensioner B Deployment Control

B0079 indicates that the restraint control module has detected a fault in the deployment circuit for the driver's seat belt pretensioner B, which is the second pretensioner on the driver's side in vehicles with dual-stage or multi-stage belts. The module monitors the circuit's resistance and continuity and sets this code when the signal falls outside the expected range, which can prevent that pretensioner from firing in a collision.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

High

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- The supplemental restraint system (SRS) warning light stays illuminated on the instrument cluster.
- A chime or message may appear on the driver information center advising service of the restraint system.
- The seat belt may not lock or tension as designed during a collision, reducing occupant protection.
- In some vehicles, the airbag system may be partially disabled or placed in a default deployment strategy.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the belt feeling and operating normally in everyday use.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A damaged or disconnected electrical connector at the driver's seat belt pretensioner B, often caused by seat movement or debris.
- 2 A broken or chafed wire in the pretensioner harness, typically where it flexes near the seat track or sill.
- 3 High resistance or an open circuit inside the pretensioner squib itself, which requires replacement of the pretensioner assembly.
- 4 Corrosion or water intrusion at the connector or in the harness, especially on vehicles with sunroof drains or floor leaks.
- 5 A faulty restraint control module that is unable to read the deployment circuit correctly, though this is less common.
- 6 Aftermarket seat covers, seat heaters, or accessories that interfere with the pretensioner wiring or connector.
- 7 A short to ground or short to voltage in the deployment circuit caused by pinched wiring during seat removal or repair.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the driver's seat belt pretensioner B connector for looseness, corrosion, or damaged pins, and reseal or clean it as needed.
- 2 Check the pretensioner harness for chafing, pinches, or breaks along the seat track and under the seat, repairing any damaged wire.
- 3 Measure the resistance of the pretensioner squib with a proper meter and compare it to the manufacturer's specification to confirm an internal fault.
- 4 Clear the code and recheck after each repair to verify whether the fault returns before moving to the next step.
- 5 If the squib resistance is out of range, replace the driver's seat belt pretensioner B assembly following the manufacturer's procedure.
- 6 If the circuit and pretensioner test good, perform a restraint control module diagnostic self-test and replace the module only if it fails.
- 7 After any repair, verify the SRS warning light extinguishes and no codes return during a complete drive cycle.

What technicians check before replacing the pretensioner

- A loose connector under the driver's seat is the most common cause of B0079, and simply reseating it often clears the code permanently.
- The code can be set by a momentary open circuit when the seat is moved fully forward or backward, so always test the circuit with the seat in several positions.
- Never use a standard ohmmeter on a live airbag or pretensioner circuit; always disconnect the battery and wait the specified time before probing the squib.
- B0079 does not always mean the pretensioner is defective; a poor ground or a low battery voltage during cranking can cause a false set.
- Aftermarket seat covers or seat heaters that pinch the pretensioner harness are a frequently missed cause, especially on vehicles that have had interior work.

Can I keep driving with B0079?

The vehicle remains drivable, but the driver's seat belt pretensioner B may not deploy in a crash, so avoid collisions and have the fault repaired promptly. Do not ignore the warning light, because the restraint system may be compromised for that seating position.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capability
- Digital multimeter with low-resistance measurement
- Manufacturer service information for resistance specifications and connector views
- Trim removal tools for accessing seat and sill trim
- Battery disconnect tool and wait timer for safe SRS work



Reading B0079

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

Often seen with

B0077 Driver Seatbelt Pretensioner Resistance High · **B0078** Third Row Right Seat Belt Pretensioner Deployment Control · **B0080** Driver Seat Belt Load Limiter Deployment Control · **B0081** Front Passenger Belt Switch Circuit · **B0082** Passenger Seatbelt Pretensioner Loop Open

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/b0079/>

