

GENERIC · BODY

B0086

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

B0086

Passenger Seatbelt Pretensioner Resistance Low

B0086 indicates that the restraint control module has measured resistance in the passenger seatbelt pretensioner circuit that is below the expected threshold, which usually points to a short to ground or a damaged connector. The module sets this code when the circuit resistance falls outside the factory-specified low limit during its self-test, often disabling the passenger-side pretensioner as a protective measure.

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 supplemental restraint system (SRS) warning light stays illuminated on the dashboard.
- The passenger seatbelt pretensioner may be disabled, so it will not deploy in a collision.
- In some vehicles, the passenger airbag may also be suppressed as part of the same safety strategy.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the seatbelt latching and retracting normally.
- Intermittent warning light flicker when the passenger seat is moved or the seatbelt is buckled.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A short to ground in the passenger pretensioner wiring harness, often where it flexes near the seat track.
- 2 Corroded, loose, or damaged electrical connectors at the pretensioner or under the passenger seat.
- 3 Internal short inside the passenger seatbelt pretensioner squib, caused by moisture intrusion or manufacturing defect.
- 4 Pinched or chafed wiring from seat adjustment, cargo loading, or previous interior repairs.
- 5 Water intrusion into the floor harness or connector causing low resistance between circuits.
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or phone chargers improperly spliced into the SRS wiring.
- 7 A faulty restraint control module, though this is the least likely cause and should be confirmed last.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all restraint control module codes, then clear B0086 and verify whether it returns immediately or only after seat movement.
- 2 Visually inspect the passenger pretensioner connector and the under-seat harness for corrosion, pinched wires, or loose terminals, repairing any damage found.
- 3 Disconnect the battery and wait the manufacturer-specified time, then unplug the passenger pretensioner and measure resistance across the squib terminals to compare with the factory specification.
- 4 With the pretensioner disconnected, measure resistance from each harness terminal to ground to check for a short to ground in the wiring.
- 5 Wiggle-test the harness while watching live resistance data or the ohmmeter to catch intermittent shorts caused by seat movement.
- 6 If the harness tests good but the code persists, substitute a known-good pretensioner or use a simulator to isolate whether the fault is in the squib or the module.
- 7 After repairs, clear codes and perform the manufacturer's SRS verification procedure, confirming the warning light extinguishes and no codes return.

Why seat movement often triggers B0086

- A pretensioner circuit that tests fine on a stationary seat can still set B0086 when the passenger seat is moved, because the harness flexes and momentarily shorts to ground.
- Many technicians replace the pretensioner only to find the real fault is a chafed wire under the seat track or a corroded connector pin, so always inspect the harness first.
- B0086 does not always mean the pretensioner itself is defective; a low-resistance reading can come from water in a floor connector or an aftermarket device spliced into the SRS circuit.
- Some vehicles set a companion code for the passenger airbag when the pretensioner circuit is shorted, leading owners to believe the airbag is faulty when the pretensioner is the root cause.
- The restraint control module may store B0086 as historical after a one-time short, so clearing and rechecking after a test drive is essential before condemning any part.

Can I keep driving with B0086?

You can usually drive the vehicle, but the passenger seatbelt pretensioner may not deploy in a crash, so avoid carrying a front passenger until the fault is repaired. Do not ignore the warning light, because the same circuit fault can affect other restraint functions.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Battery disconnect tool
- SRS simulator or known-good pretensioner for testing

Reading B0086

- B** Body: airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems.
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- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
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- 0** Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems.
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- 86** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B0085 Passenger Belt Buckle Switch Circuit · **B0087** Passenger Seatbelt Pretensioner Resistance High · **B0088** Third Row Right Seat Belt Load Limiter Deployment Control · **B0090** Driver Side Pretensioner Stage 2 Deployment Control · **B0091** Passenger Side Pretensioner Stage 2 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/b0086/>

