

GENERIC · BODY

B0097

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0097

Side Impact Sensor Right Rear Malfunction

B0097 indicates that the body control module or occupant restraint controller has detected a fault in the right rear side impact sensor circuit, which is used to trigger airbags and seatbelt pretensioners in a side collision. The computer monitors the sensor's signal voltage and sets this code when the reading falls outside the expected range or the circuit shows an open, short, or implausible signal.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- Airbag warning light illuminated on the instrument cluster
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Supplemental restraint system (SRS) may be disabled for the right rear side impact
- Intermittent warning light that comes and goes over bumps or when it rains
- A stored crash data record or diagnostic trouble code in the airbag module
- Failure of the right rear side airbag to deploy in a collision

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or chafed wiring harness at the right rear sensor connector or along the rocker panel
- 2 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the right rear side impact sensor
- 3 Faulty right rear side impact sensor itself
- 4 Water intrusion into the sensor or connector causing short circuits
- 5 Failed occupant restraint controller (airbag module) not processing the sensor signal
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or previous body repair disturbing the sensor circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the right rear side impact sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, damage, or loose pins
- 2 Check for water leaks or debris around the sensor mounting area and clean or dry as needed
- 3 Disconnect the battery and wait for the airbag system to discharge, then measure resistance and voltage on the sensor circuit
- 4 Compare sensor signal readings with the left rear sensor or use a known-good sensor to isolate the fault
- 5 Repair or replace damaged wiring and connectors, then clear codes and verify the light stays off
- 6 If the circuit tests good, replace the right rear side impact sensor and recheck
- 7 If the code persists, diagnose the occupant restraint controller and its programming or replacement

What most technicians miss on B0097

- A common oversight is replacing the side impact sensor without first checking the connector for water intrusion, which often causes intermittent codes that return after replacement.
- The code can be set by a low battery or voltage spike during jump-starting, so always clear the code and verify it resets before condemning parts.
- Body work or upholstery repair near the right rear quarter panel can pinch or stretch the sensor wiring, creating a fault that looks like a failed sensor.
- Some vehicles require recalibration or programming of the occupant restraint controller after sensor replacement, and skipping this step leaves the light on.
- The side impact sensor is often mounted inside the rear quarter panel or behind trim, so a visual inspection requires removing interior panels and checking for hidden corrosion.

Can I keep driving with B0097?

The vehicle remains safe to drive in normal conditions because the airbag system will still function for other impact directions, but the right rear side airbag and pretensioner may not deploy in a side collision. Avoid hard impacts to the right rear area and have the fault repaired promptly to restore full supplemental restraint protection.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with airbag system capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Service manual or wiring diagram for the vehicle
- Battery disconnect tool or wrench



Reading B0097

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

Often seen with

B0092 Side Impact Sensor Left Front Malfunction · **B0093** Side Impact Sensor Left Front Communication Lost · **B0094** Side Impact Sensor Right Front Malfunction · **B0095** Occupant Classification System Performance · **B0096** Side Impact Sensor Left Rear Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Helicopter Flight Simulator: Learn the Three Controls](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0097/>

