

GENERIC · BODY

B0098

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0098

Occupant Detection Sensor

B0098 indicates that the occupant detection sensor, which is part of the passenger seat weight-sensing system, has reported a fault to the restraint control module. The computer has detected an abnormal signal or circuit condition from the sensor, which may prevent the passenger airbag from deploying correctly in a crash.

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 dashboard
- Passenger airbag status indicator may show 'off' even when the seat is occupied
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- In some vehicles, a chime or message may appear reminding you to check the airbag system
- The passenger airbag may be disabled entirely, which you might notice if the status light stays off

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty occupant detection sensor (weight sensor) in the passenger seat
- 2 Damaged or pinched wiring under the passenger seat
- 3 Loose or corroded electrical connector at the sensor or control module
- 4 Failed occupant detection control module (if equipped separately)
- 5 Seat cushion damage or foreign object interfering with the sensor
- 6 Water intrusion or spill damage to the sensor or wiring

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the wiring and connectors under the passenger seat for damage or corrosion, and repair as needed
- 2 Check for any objects or debris under the seat that could interfere with the sensor
- 3 Perform a visual inspection of the seat cushion and sensor for signs of damage or wear
- 4 Use a scan tool to read live data from the occupant detection sensor and compare with expected values
- 5 Calibrate or re-zero the occupant detection system according to the manufacturer's procedure
- 6 Replace the occupant detection sensor if testing confirms it is faulty
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair by cycling the ignition and checking that the light stays off



Common misdiagnosis of occupant sensor faults

- A weak or failing battery can cause voltage drops that trigger false occupant sensor codes, so always check battery health first.
- The occupant detection sensor is often part of the seat cushion and may require seat disassembly, which is why many technicians misdiagnose it as a simple wiring issue.
- After replacing the sensor, some vehicles require a recalibration procedure that is not always documented in aftermarket manuals, leading to repeat codes.
- The code can be set by a loose connector that only loses contact when the seat is moved, so wiggle-testing the harness while monitoring live data is crucial.
- Do not assume the sensor is bad just because the code is present; the fault could be in the wiring or the control module, and misdiagnosis leads to unnecessary parts replacement.

Can I keep driving with B0098?

You can generally drive with this code, but the passenger airbag may not deploy in a crash, so avoid carrying a passenger in the front seat until the fault is repaired. Have the system diagnosed promptly to restore full safety functionality.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Socket set
- Manufacturer-specific diagnostic software (if available)

Reading B0098

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

Often seen with

B0097 Side Impact Sensor Right Rear Malfunction · **B0099** Occupant Detection Module Internal Fault · **B00A0** Occupant Classification System · **U0151** Lost Communication With Restraints Control Module



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Manual Transmission Works: Four-Speed Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0098/>

