

GENERIC · BODY

B00C1

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B00C1

Passenger Seat Occupant Classification Sensor B

B00C1 indicates that the occupant classification system (OCS) for the passenger seat has detected a fault with sensor B, which is part of the weight-sensing mat or bladder assembly. The computer sets this code when the signal from sensor B falls outside the expected range or is missing entirely, preventing the system from accurately determining whether a passenger is present and how much they weigh.

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 warning light on the dashboard is illuminated, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- The passenger airbag may be disabled even when an adult is seated, or it may remain enabled when the seat is empty.
- The passenger seat belt reminder chime may not activate when a passenger is present.
- In some vehicles, a message such as 'Passenger Airbag Off' appears on the center console or overhead display.
- The occupant classification system may fail its self-test during startup, causing the airbag light to flash before staying on.
- In rare cases, the seat heater or power seat functions may be inoperative if they share a common ground or connector with the OCS.



Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A faulty occupant classification sensor B, typically a strain gauge or pressure sensor embedded in the seat cushion, which has failed or drifted out of calibration.
- 2 Damaged or chafed wiring between the sensor B and the occupant classification module, often caused by seat movement or objects caught under the seat.
- 3 A loose, corroded, or disconnected electrical connector at the sensor B or at the occupant classification module under the seat.
- 4 Liquid spillage or physical damage to the seat cushion that has contaminated or deformed the sensor B or its mounting.
- 5 A failed occupant classification module (OCM) that cannot process the sensor B signal correctly, though this is less common than sensor or wiring faults.
- 6 Aftermarket seat covers or heavy objects left on the passenger seat that alter the weight distribution and cause the sensor to read out of range.
- 7 A software calibration issue in the occupant classification module that requires a relearn or recalibration procedure after battery replacement or seat repair.

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the passenger seat area for any aftermarket seat covers, heavy objects, or debris that could affect the weight sensor, and remove them before clearing the code.
- 2 Visually inspect the wiring harness and connectors under the passenger seat for damage, corrosion, or loose connections, and repair or reseat as needed.
- 3 Use a scan tool to read live data from the occupant classification system and compare sensor B readings with sensor A and expected values to confirm the fault.
- 4 Perform a resistance or voltage check on sensor B and its wiring according to the manufacturer's service information to isolate whether the sensor or the circuit is at fault.
- 5 If the sensor B is faulty, replace the occupant classification sensor or the entire weight-sensing mat assembly as required by the vehicle manufacturer.
- 6 After any repair, perform the required occupant classification system calibration or relearn procedure using a scan tool to ensure the system recognizes the new sensor.
- 7 Clear the diagnostic trouble codes and verify that the airbag light goes out and that the passenger airbag status indicates correctly with and without a passenger.



What most technicians miss on B00C1

- A common mistake is replacing the occupant classification module when the real problem is a chafed wire under the seat that only loses contact when the seat is moved, so always wiggle-test the harness while watching live data.
- The sensor B is often part of a mat that cannot be replaced separately, and forcing a generic sensor into the mat can cause calibration failures and repeat codes.
- Liquid spills from drinks or cleaning solutions can seep into the seat cushion and corrode the sensor element over time, so always check for signs of moisture damage before condemning the sensor.
- Some vehicles require the occupant classification system to be recalibrated after any seat removal or battery replacement, and skipping this step will cause the code to return immediately.
- A weak or failing battery can cause the occupant classification module to set false codes during cranking, so verify battery health and charging system operation before chasing sensor faults.

Can I keep driving with B00C1?

You can generally continue driving with this code, but the passenger airbag may not deploy correctly in a crash, so avoid carrying a passenger in the front seat until the fault is repaired. Have the system diagnosed promptly to restore proper airbag function.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and occupant classification system capabilities
- Digital multimeter for resistance and voltage checks
- Trim removal tools for accessing seat connectors and sensors
- Service information or wiring diagrams for the specific vehicle
- Torque wrench for seat mounting bolts if seat removal is required

Reading B00C1

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.

C1 The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B00C0 Passenger Seat Occupant Classification Sensor A · **B00C2** Passenger Seat Occupant Classification Sensor C · **B00C3** Passenger Seat Occupant Classification Sensor D · **B00C4** Passenger Seat Occupant Classification Sensor E · **B00C5** Passenger Seat Track Position Restraints Sensor



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Car Clutch Works: Diaphragm Clutch Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b00c1/>

