

GENERIC · BODY

B00E3

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B00E3

Second Row Left Seat Belt Pretensioner C Deployment Control

B00E3 indicates that the restraint control module (RCM) has detected a deployment circuit fault in the second-row left seat belt pretensioner, which is the retractor mechanism that tightens the belt during a crash. The module monitors the circuit's resistance and continuity and sets this code when the signal falls outside the expected range, meaning the pretensioner may not deploy correctly 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 dashboard.
- A chime or message may appear reminding you to service the restraint system.
- The seat belt may feel loose or fail to lock as it should during a sudden stop.
- In some vehicles, the pretensioner may deploy unexpectedly or not at all in a crash.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the belt operating normally in everyday use.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A damaged or disconnected electrical connector at the pretensioner under the second-row left seat.
- 2 Corroded or frayed wiring in the pretensioner circuit, often from moisture or seat movement.
- 3 A faulty seat belt pretensioner assembly itself, such as an open internal squib.
- 4 A malfunctioning restraint control module (RCM) that misreads the circuit.
- 5 Poor ground connection for the pretensioner circuit.
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or spilled liquids that disturb the seat wiring harness.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the pretensioner connector under the second-row left seat for looseness, corrosion, or damage and reseal it firmly.
- 2 Check the wiring harness for chafing, pinches, or breaks, especially where it passes through the seat frame.
- 3 Measure the resistance of the pretensioner circuit with a digital multimeter and compare it to the manufacturer's specification.
- 4 Verify the ground connection for the pretensioner circuit is clean and tight.
- 5 If the circuit tests good, substitute a known-good pretensioner or use a simulator to see if the code clears.
- 6 Clear the code and perform a road test to confirm the repair; if the code returns, diagnose the RCM.
- 7 Replace the faulty pretensioner or RCM only after confirming the circuit is sound, following all safety precautions for handling pyrotechnic devices.

Before you replace the pretensioner

- A common mistake is replacing the pretensioner when the real problem is a loose connector or chafed wire under the seat, so always inspect the circuit first.
- The code can be set by a low battery or voltage spike during cranking, so check the charging system before condemning parts.
- Seat belt pretensioners are pyrotechnic devices; never probe the circuit with a powered test light or apply voltage directly, as this can trigger deployment.
- After any repair, the RCM may need a calibration or learn procedure, and some vehicles require a scan tool to clear the crash data.
- This code does not always mean the pretensioner is defective; it can also be triggered by a faulty RCM or a poor ground that affects multiple restraint circuits.

Can I keep driving with B00E3?

Because this fault can prevent the seat belt pretensioner from deploying in a crash, you should have it diagnosed and repaired promptly. Avoid hard braking or sudden maneuvers until fixed, and do not attempt to repair the pretensioner circuit yourself without proper training.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capabilities
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Safety glasses and gloves
- Service manual for the specific vehicle



Reading B00E3

- 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.
- E3** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B00E2 Third Row Center Seat Belt Pretensioner B Deployment Control · **B00E4** Second Row Right Seat Belt Pretensioner C Deployment Control · **B00E5** Second Row Center Seat Belt Pretensioner C Deployment Control · **B00E6** Third Row Right Seat Belt Pretensioner C Deployment Control · **B00E7** Third Row Left Seat Belt Pretensioner C 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/b00e3/>

