

GENERIC · BODY

B0101

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

B0101

Front Crash Sensor Circuit Malfunction

B0101 indicates that the airbag control module has detected a fault in the front crash sensor circuit, which is responsible for detecting a frontal impact and triggering the airbags and seatbelt pretensioners. The module monitors the sensor's signal voltage and sets this code when the voltage falls outside the expected range or the circuit is open or shorted.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Body	Generic (all makes)	High	Professional	Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- Airbag warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) warning message displayed
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Airbags may be disabled and will not deploy in a collision
- Seatbelt pretensioners may not function
- In some vehicles, other safety systems like automatic emergency braking may be disabled

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty front crash sensor
- Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the sensor
- Open or short circuit in the sensor wiring
- Poor electrical connection due to loose pins or water intrusion
- Failed airbag control module (less common)
- Impact damage from a previous collision not properly repaired

How to diagnose and fix it

- Inspect the front crash sensor and its connector for physical damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- Check the wiring harness for cuts, chafing, or pinched wires
- Measure resistance and voltage on the sensor circuit according to the manufacturer's specifications
- Test the sensor with a multimeter or oscilloscope to verify signal output
- Replace the front crash sensor if testing confirms it is faulty
- Repair or replace damaged wiring and connectors as needed
- Clear the code and verify the repair by cycling the ignition and checking for return of the code



Front crash sensor faults often misdiagnosed

- A common mistake is replacing the airbag control module when the real problem is a chafed wire in the front bumper area.
- The front crash sensor is often located behind the bumper cover, making it vulnerable to water and road debris damage.
- Some vehicles use a single sensor for both front crash detection and pedestrian protection, so a fault can affect multiple systems.
- After any front-end collision repair, the sensor and its wiring should be inspected even if the airbag did not deploy.
- A weak battery or charging system issue can cause intermittent sensor codes, so always check system voltage first.

Can I keep driving with B0101?

It is not safe to drive with an active B0101 code because the airbags may not deploy in a crash. Have the vehicle diagnosed and repaired by a qualified technician before driving, and avoid any frontal impacts.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner with SRS capabilities
- Digital multimeter
- Oscilloscope
- Wire repair kit
- Service manual for wiring diagrams

Reading B0101

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

Often seen with

B0100 Restraints Control Module Internal Fault · **B0102** Power Mirror Switch Circuit · **B0103** Front Crash Sensor Left Communication Lost · **B0111** Camera Washer Actuator H · **U0151** Lost Communication With Restraints Control Module



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Disc Brake Trainer: How Car Brakes Stop a Wheel](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0101/>

