

GENERIC · BODY

B0103

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0103

Front Crash Sensor Left Communication Lost

B0103 indicates that the airbag control module has lost communication with the front crash sensor on the left side of the vehicle, meaning the sensor is not reporting data over the dedicated serial link. The module sets this code when it detects missing or intermittent messages from that sensor, which can disable the front airbag deployment strategy for that side.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- Airbag warning light illuminated steadily on the dashboard
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the vehicle driving normally
- In some vehicles, a message on the driver information center stating 'Service Airbag' or 'Airbag System Failure'
- Intermittent warning light that comes and goes with rough road surfaces or temperature changes
- Airbag system may be disabled for the affected front sensor, reducing protection in a frontal collision

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or corroded wiring harness between the front crash sensor and the airbag control module
- 2 Loose or contaminated electrical connector at the front crash sensor
- 3 Failed front crash sensor (left side) due to impact, water intrusion, or internal electronics failure
- 4 Faulty airbag control module not recognizing the sensor communication
- 5 Poor ground connection for the sensor or the airbag module
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or previous collision repairs disturbing the sensor circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the front crash sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, damage, or loose pins, and clean or repair as needed
- 2 Check the sensor ground circuit and ensure a clean, tight connection to the chassis
- 3 Use a scan tool to view live data from the front crash sensors and confirm whether the left sensor is completely dead or intermittent
- 4 Perform a wiggle test on the harness while watching live data to locate an intermittent open circuit
- 5 Measure resistance and voltage on the communication lines between the sensor and the airbag module, comparing to manufacturer specifications
- 6 If wiring and connectors are good, substitute a known-good sensor or follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow to test the sensor
- 7 After repair, clear the code and verify the airbag warning light goes out and stays off during a road test

What the airbag module is not telling you

- A front crash sensor that loses communication does not always mean the sensor itself has failed; chafed wiring near the radiator support or a corroded connector is a very common cause that is often overlooked.
- Some vehicles use a daisy-chain communication bus for crash sensors, so a fault in one sensor's wiring can affect the signal to another sensor and set multiple codes.
- The airbag control module may store B0103 as a history code after a low-voltage event or battery replacement, and it may not indicate a current fault if the light is off.
- After any collision repair, the front crash sensor mounting and orientation must be correct; a sensor bolted in the wrong position can communicate but still set a code due to implausible data.
- Do not probe airbag sensor connectors with a standard test light or multimeter unless the manufacturer's procedure explicitly allows it, as doing so can deploy an airbag or damage the module.

Can I keep driving with B0103?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive because the airbag system is designed to fail safe, but the front airbag on the affected side may not deploy in a crash. Avoid rough roads and have the fault diagnosed promptly, especially if the warning light is on steadily.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with airbag system capability and live data
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Terminal pick and contact cleaner
- Insulated hand tools



Reading B0103

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

Often seen with

B0100 Restraints Control Module Internal Fault · **B0101** Front Crash Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **B0102** Power Mirror Switch Circuit · **B0104** Driver Mirror Adjust Switch Circuit · **B0105** Front Crash Sensor Right Communication Lost

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/b0103/>

