

GENERIC · BODY

B011E

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B011E

Fluid Reservoir Level Sensor C

B011E indicates that the body control module (BCM) or dedicated control module has detected a fault in the circuit for the fluid reservoir level sensor designated as 'C'. This sensor typically monitors the level of a fluid such as washer fluid, coolant, or brake fluid, and the code is set when the module receives an out-of-range voltage or a signal that does not correlate with expected values.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the fluid level warning light on the dashboard
- A message on the driver information center indicating low fluid level, even when the reservoir is full
- Intermittent or flickering warning light as the vehicle goes over bumps or around corners
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with no drivability issues
- If the sensor is for brake fluid, a red brake warning light may appear, but the pedal feel remains normal
- If the sensor is for coolant, the temperature gauge may still read normal, but the low coolant light stays on

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low fluid level in the reservoir, which is the most common and simplest cause
- 2 Faulty fluid level sensor (internal resistance drift or stuck float)
- 3 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the sensor
- 4 Open or short circuit in the sensor signal or ground circuit
- 5 Failed body control module (BCM) or fluid level control module
- 6 Contaminated fluid causing the float to stick or the sensor to misread
- 7 Aftermarket or incorrect fluid cap interfering with the sensor



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the fluid level in the reservoir and top up if low; inspect for leaks if the level is repeatedly low
- 2 Inspect the sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, damage, or loose pins
- 3 Measure the sensor resistance or voltage output and compare to specifications; replace the sensor if out of range
- 4 Check the sensor ground circuit for continuity to chassis ground
- 5 Check for short to voltage or short to ground on the signal circuit
- 6 If the circuit tests good, verify the module's ability to read the sensor by using a scan tool to monitor live data
- 7 Replace the body control module only after confirming all wiring and sensor inputs are correct and performing necessary programming

Before you replace the fluid level sensor

- A low fluid level is the most frequent trigger for B011E, so always verify the reservoir level before condemning the sensor.
The sensor may be part of a combined washer fluid and coolant level switch on some vehicles, and a failure in one section can set codes for multiple fluids.
- Corrosion at the sensor connector is a common hidden cause, especially on vehicles driven in winter road salt conditions.
- The code can be set by a faulty ground connection at the sensor or at the module, which is often overlooked during diagnosis.
After replacing the sensor or module, some vehicles require a relearn or calibration procedure to clear the code and restore accurate level readings.

Can I keep driving with B011E?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with B011E because it does not affect engine operation or safety systems, but you should verify the actual fluid level manually to avoid overlooking a genuine low-fluid condition that could lead to component damage. Avoid ignoring a red brake warning light if the sensor is for brake fluid, as that could indicate a serious safety issue.

Tools that help

- Scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wire terminal release tools
- Fluid siphon or pump



Reading B011E

- 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.
- 1E** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B011D Fluid Reservoir Level Sensor B · **B011F** Fluid Reservoir Level Sensor D · **B0120** Passenger Pelvic/Thorax Airbag Deployment Control · **B0121** Fluid Reservoir Level Sensor F · **B0122** Pedestrian Alert Speaker A

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Oxygen Sensor Works: Live 3D Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b011e/>

