

GENERIC · BODY

B0123

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0123

Pedestrian Alert Speaker B

B0123 indicates a fault in the pedestrian alert speaker circuit, which is the external sound generator that hybrid and electric vehicles use to warn pedestrians at low speeds. The body control module or dedicated sound module has detected an open circuit, short to ground, short to battery voltage, or an abnormal speaker resistance on the output to that speaker.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- A warning light or message on the instrument cluster indicating a pedestrian alert system fault
- No audible pedestrian warning sound when the vehicle is moving slowly or in reverse
- A weak, distorted, or intermittent warning tone from the external speaker
- The warning sound may default to a louder or different tone as a failsafe
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, because the speaker only operates at low speeds and many drivers never notice its absence
- Related driver assistance or hybrid system messages may appear if the module disables the alert function

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or disconnected wiring harness at the pedestrian alert speaker, often from road debris or curb contact
- 2 Corroded or loose speaker connector pins due to water intrusion or road salt exposure
- 3 Failed pedestrian alert speaker, typically from moisture ingress or vibration fatigue
- 4 Open or shorted circuit in the harness between the sound module and the speaker
- 5 Internal fault in the body control module or dedicated pedestrian alert sound module
- 6 Blown fuse or poor ground connection serving the pedestrian alert circuit
- 7 Aftermarket modifications or accident repairs that disturbed the speaker wiring



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related body or hybrid control module codes before touching hardware
- 2 Inspect the pedestrian alert speaker and its connector for physical damage, corrosion, or water intrusion
- 3 Check the pedestrian alert circuit fuse and confirm the sound module has good power and ground
- 4 Measure resistance across the speaker terminals and compare with the manufacturer's specification to confirm speaker condition
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the harness while monitoring speaker resistance or command the alert sound with a scan tool to catch intermittent faults
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring, terminals, or the speaker as indicated by the test results
- 7 Clear the code and verify the pedestrian alert sound operates correctly at low speed and in reverse

Why the pedestrian alert speaker fails quietly

- Many drivers never realize the pedestrian alert speaker has failed because the warning sound is only required at low speeds and is easily masked by road noise or the radio.
- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the sound module when the real problem is a corroded speaker connector behind the front bumper that sees constant water and salt spray.
- The code can be set by a momentary open circuit during a bump or car wash, so an intermittent history code may not indicate a hard failure until the fault is reproduced.
- Some vehicles use the same speaker for both the pedestrian alert and other audible warnings, so a failure can also affect chime or alarm functions without a separate code.
- After a collision repair or bumper replacement, the speaker or its harness is frequently left disconnected or pinched, setting B0123 even though the component itself is good.

Can I keep driving with B0123?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the pedestrian alert is a warning aid rather than a safety-critical system, but you should avoid low-speed areas with pedestrians until repaired. Use extra caution in parking lots, driveways, and crosswalks where the missing sound could surprise someone.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with body control module capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Wiring diagram for the pedestrian alert circuit
- Test light or power probe



Reading B0123

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

Often seen with

B0122 Pedestrian Alert Speaker A · **B0124** Night Vision Camera · **B0125** Driver Side Mirror Position Sensor · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Knock Sensor Works: Spark Timing and Octane](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0123/>

