

GENERIC · BODY

B0131

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0131

A/V Sensor Washer Fluid C Control Circuit

B0131 indicates that the body control module (BCM) has detected a fault in the control circuit for the washer fluid level sensor, often referred to as the A/V sensor (audible/visual sensor) for the washer fluid system. The BCM monitors the circuit for expected voltage or resistance and sets this code when the signal is out of range, indicating an open, short, or component failure.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- Washer fluid low warning light illuminated on the dashboard even when the reservoir is full
- No warning light when the washer fluid level is actually low
- Intermittent or flickering washer fluid warning light
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Other body control module functions (like wipers or lights) may be unaffected

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty washer fluid level sensor
- Damaged or disconnected wiring or connector at the sensor
- Corroded or dirty sensor connector terminals
- Open or short circuit in the control circuit between the sensor and BCM
- Failed body control module (BCM) or internal driver fault
- Washer fluid reservoir contaminated or sensor stuck due to debris

How to diagnose and fix it

- Verify the washer fluid level and inspect the reservoir for debris or contamination
- Check the sensor connector for corrosion, tightness, and proper seating
- Inspect the wiring harness for damage, chafing, or loose pins
- Test the sensor resistance or output signal with a multimeter and compare to specifications
- Check for continuity and voltage on the control circuit between the sensor and BCM
- If the circuit and sensor test good, diagnose or replace the BCM as needed



Washer fluid sensor circuit quirks

- A common oversight is assuming the sensor is bad when the real issue is a chafed wire behind the inner fender liner or bumper cover.
- Some vehicles use a simple float switch while others use a capacitive sensor; the diagnostic approach differs, so consult the service information for your specific system.
- The BCM may set this code if the sensor circuit is disconnected during other repairs, such as bumper removal, and the code may not clear until the circuit is properly reconnected.
- Washer fluid that is not the correct type or is contaminated can cause the sensor to give false readings, so always use the recommended fluid.
- A weak or failing battery can cause erratic BCM behavior and set false circuit codes, so check battery health before replacing modules.

Can I keep driving with B0131?

This code does not affect vehicle safety or drivability, so you can continue driving. However, you may lose the low washer fluid warning, so check the fluid level manually until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Service manual or wiring diagram
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Contact cleaner and dielectric grease

Reading B0131

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

Often seen with

B0130 Driver Seatbelt Tension Sensor Circuit · **B0132** A/V Sensor Washer Fluid D Control Circuit · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a MAP Sensor Works: Engine Vacuum and Load](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0131/>

