

GENERIC · BODY

B0223

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0223

SRS Indicator Lamp Circuit Malfunction

B0223 indicates that the Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) control module has detected a fault in the electrical circuit that operates the SRS indicator lamp, which is the warning light on the dashboard that illuminates when the airbag system has a problem. The module monitors the lamp circuit for expected voltage or resistance and sets this code when the circuit is open, shorted, or drawing current outside the expected range.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- The SRS warning light may fail to illuminate when the ignition is turned on, so the bulb check does not occur.
- The SRS warning light may stay illuminated continuously after the bulb check period.
- The SRS warning light may flicker or turn on intermittently while driving over bumps.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with no drivability issues or other dashboard warnings.
- In some vehicles, a chime or message may appear indicating a restraint system fault.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A burned-out or damaged SRS indicator bulb or light-emitting diode (LED) in the instrument cluster.
- 2 A loose, corroded, or disconnected electrical connector at the back of the instrument cluster or at the SRS control module.
- 3 A damaged wire in the lamp circuit, often from chafing, pinching, or rodent damage behind the dashboard.
- 4 A faulty instrument cluster circuit board or solder joint affecting the lamp circuit.
- 5 A failed SRS control module that is unable to properly monitor or drive the lamp circuit.
- 6 Water intrusion or corrosion in a connector or fuse box that feeds the lamp circuit.
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or alarm installations that tapped into the SRS lamp wiring and disturbed the circuit.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool that can access the SRS module and record any freeze-frame data before clearing anything.
- 2 Perform the bulb check by turning the ignition on and observing whether the SRS lamp illuminates briefly; if it does not, suspect the bulb or cluster.
- 3 Inspect the SRS lamp circuit wiring and connectors between the cluster and the SRS module for looseness, corrosion, or damage.
- 4 Test the lamp circuit with a digital multimeter for continuity, voltage, and resistance according to the manufacturer's service information.
- 5 If the circuit tests good, substitute a known-good instrument cluster or SRS module only after confirming power and ground integrity.
- 6 Repair or replace the faulty component, clear the code, and verify the SRS lamp operates correctly during the bulb check and that the code does not return.

Why the SRS Light Circuit Fools Good Technicians

- A common oversight is replacing the SRS module when the actual fault is a simple burned-out bulb or a loose cluster connector, so always check the lamp itself first.
- Some vehicles use a light-emitting diode (LED) that is soldered into the cluster and not serviceable separately, leading to unnecessary cluster replacement when a repair is possible.
- The SRS lamp circuit is often shared with other warning lamps through a common ground or power feed, so a fault in one circuit can affect multiple lamps and mislead diagnosis.
- Aftermarket remote starters or alarm systems that tap into the SRS lamp wire can introduce resistance or shorts that set this code even though the factory wiring is intact.
- This code does not always mean the airbags will not deploy; it only indicates a fault with the warning lamp circuit, but the system should still be diagnosed promptly for safety.

Can I keep driving with B0223?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive because this code affects only the warning lamp circuit, not the airbag deployment circuits, but you should avoid ignoring it because a non-functional SRS lamp could mask a more serious airbag fault. Have the system diagnosed soon and avoid any electrical modifications until repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS module capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Service information or wiring diagrams for the specific vehicle
- Test light



Reading B0223

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

Often seen with

U0151 Lost Communication With Restraints Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Starter Motor Works: Pre-Engaged Starter](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0223/>

