

GENERIC · BODY

B0312

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0312

Driver Seat Forward/Back Switch Circuit

B0312 indicates that the body control module (BCM) has detected an abnormal condition in the electrical circuit for the driver's seat forward/back switch. The BCM monitors the switch input and the motor control circuit, and it sets this code when the voltage or resistance falls outside the expected range, often due to an open circuit, short to ground, or faulty switch.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- The driver's seat does not move forward or backward when the switch is pressed.
- The seat moves in one direction only, or moves intermittently.
- The seat may move unexpectedly or stop mid-travel.
- A warning light on the dashboard may illuminate, though often no symptoms besides the warning light are noticed.
- The memory seat function (if equipped) may fail to recall positions.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty driver's seat forward/back switch (worn contacts or internal failure).
- 2 Damaged wiring or connector at the seat switch or under the seat (corrosion, pinched wires, or loose pins).
- 3 Open circuit in the power or ground circuit to the seat switch.
- 4 Short to ground or short to voltage in the switch signal circuit.
- 5 Failed seat motor (though this usually sets a different code).
- 6 Body control module (BCM) internal fault (rare).

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related body codes.
- 2 Inspect the seat switch and its connector for physical damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 3 Test the switch continuity with a multimeter in both directions; replace if no continuity or incorrect operation.
- 4 Check the wiring harness under the seat for chafing, pinching, or damage from seat movement.
- 5 Measure voltage and ground at the switch connector with the key on; repair any open or short circuits.
- 6 If the switch and wiring are good, test the seat motor and replace if faulty.
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair by operating the seat through its full range.



Common Misdiagnosis Traps for B0312

- A faulty seat switch is often replaced unnecessarily when the real problem is a corroded connector under the seat, so always inspect the connector first.
- The code can be set by a momentary loss of ground due to a loose seat mounting bolt, which affects the ground path for the switch.
- Aftermarket seat covers or objects trapped under the seat can damage the wiring harness and trigger this code.
- The BCM may set B0312 if the battery voltage is low during cranking, so check the battery and charging system before replacing parts.
- On some vehicles, the seat switch shares a ground with other seat functions, so a failure in another seat circuit can cause this code to appear.

Can I keep driving with B0312?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the driver's seat position does not affect steering, braking, or other critical systems. Avoid adjusting the seat until the fault is repaired, as a short circuit could blow a fuse and disable other functions.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tool
- Test light
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle

Reading B0312

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

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Helicopter Simulator: Take Off, Hover and Land](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0312/>

