

GENERIC · BODY

B0533

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0533

Right Rear Door Lock Actuator Circuit

B0533 indicates that the body control module (BCM) has detected an abnormal condition in the electrical circuit for the right rear door lock actuator, such as an open circuit, short to ground, or short to power. The BCM monitors the actuator's control circuit and sets this code when the expected voltage or current is outside the normal range during lock or unlock commands.

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 right rear door lock does not respond to the power lock switch, key fob, or central locking command.
- The right rear door may remain locked or unlocked regardless of commands, requiring manual operation.
- A warning light on the dashboard, often the door ajar or security light, may illuminate.
- The central locking system may exhibit erratic behavior, such as other doors locking but not the right rear.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the actuator fails in a position that still allows manual locking.
- The right rear door may not lock or unlock with the interior door lock button, but the manual lock tab works.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty right rear door lock actuator (most common).
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring in the door jamb boot or hinge area.
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the actuator connector or BCM connector.
- 4 Open or shorted wire in the circuit between the BCM and the actuator.
- 5 Failed body control module (less common).
- 6 Water intrusion into the door or connector causing corrosion.
- 7 Aftermarket alarm or remote start installation tapping into the door lock circuit.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the fault by commanding the right rear door lock actuator with a scan tool and observing whether it operates; listen for actuator movement.
- 2 Inspect the actuator connector and wiring at the door for corrosion, damage, or loose pins; clean and secure as needed.
- 3 Check the wiring harness in the door jamb boot for chafed or broken wires; repair any damage.
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage on the actuator control circuit at the actuator connector and compare to manufacturer specifications; repair open or short circuits.
- 5 Test the actuator directly by applying power and ground to its terminals; replace if it does not function.
- 6 If the actuator and wiring test good, check for BCM software updates or internal faults; reprogram or replace the BCM as required.
- 7 Clear the code and perform a functional test of the central locking system to confirm the repair.

Before replacing the right rear door lock actuator

- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the actuator when the real problem is a broken wire in the flexible boot between the door and body, which flexes with every door opening.
- The BCM may set B0533 if the actuator motor is drawing excessive current due to binding linkage or a dry latch mechanism, so lubricating the latch can sometimes resolve the code.
- Aftermarket remote start or alarm systems that splice into door lock wires are a frequent cause of unexplained B0533 codes, especially if the installation was poorly done.
- The code can be set by a momentary glitch and may not return after clearing; always verify the fault is current before replacing parts.
- On some vehicles, the right rear door lock actuator shares a circuit with the door ajar switch, so a faulty door ajar switch can trigger B0533 as well.

Can I keep driving with B0533?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the right rear door can still be locked and unlocked manually, but avoid relying on the power lock for security. Have the fault repaired soon to restore full central locking function and prevent the door from being left unlocked inadvertently.

Tools that help

- Scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Test light
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle



Reading B0533

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

Often seen with

B0532 Left Rear Door Lock Actuator Circuit

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Notebook: The Otto Cycle Explained](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0533/>

