

GENERIC · BODY

B0840

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0840

Left Rear Turn Signal Circuit

B0840 indicates that the body control module (BCM) has detected a fault in the left rear turn signal circuit, which includes the wiring, bulb, and connections. The BCM monitors the circuit for abnormal voltage or current and sets this code when the expected electrical load is not present.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- Left rear turn signal does not illuminate when activated
- Turn signal flashes rapidly (hyperflash) on the left side
- Turn signal indicator on the dashboard may flash faster than normal
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the fault is intermittent
- Other turn signals may operate normally
- Rear hazard flashers may also be affected on the left side

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Burnt out or faulty left rear turn signal bulb
- 2 Corroded or damaged bulb socket
- 3 Open or shorted wiring in the left rear turn signal circuit
- 4 Poor ground connection at the left rear lamp assembly
- 5 Faulty body control module (BCM) or turn signal switch
- 6 Aftermarket LED bulb installation without proper load resistors
- 7 Water intrusion or physical damage to the left rear lamp housing

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the left rear turn signal bulb is not burnt out and replace if necessary
- 2 Inspect the bulb socket for corrosion, debris, or damage and clean or replace as needed
- 3 Check the ground connection at the left rear lamp assembly for tightness and cleanliness
- 4 Test the wiring harness for continuity and shorts between the BCM and the left rear lamp
- 5 Inspect the turn signal switch for proper operation and replace if faulty
- 6 Check for aftermarket LED bulbs and install load resistors or revert to stock bulbs
- 7 If all else checks out, diagnose the BCM for internal faults



Common oversights when diagnosing B0840

- A common mistake is replacing the BCM before checking the bulb socket, which often corrodes and causes an open circuit.
- Aftermarket LED turn signal bulbs can trigger this code because their lower current draw mimics a burnt-out bulb to the BCM.
- The left rear turn signal circuit shares a ground with other rear lamps, so a bad ground can cause multiple lighting issues.
- Intermittent faults may only appear when the vehicle is driven over bumps, so wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.
- Some vehicles use a smart junction box that requires reprogramming after replacement, which is often overlooked.

Can I keep driving with B0840?

It is generally safe to drive with this code as long as the turn signal is not completely inoperative, but you should avoid driving in conditions where signaling is critical until repaired. If the turn signal does not work at all, use hand signals and repair promptly to avoid a traffic citation.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Socket wrench set
- Trim removal tool

Reading B0840

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

Often seen with

B0841 Right Rear Turn Signal Circuit



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Master the Four-Stroke Engine Cycle](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0840/>

