

GENERIC · BODY

B0970

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0970

Interior Light Circuit

B0970 is a body code that indicates the body control module (BCM) has detected a fault in the interior light circuit, which typically includes the dome light, map lights, and courtesy lamps. The BCM monitors the circuit for abnormal voltage or current and sets this code when the circuit does not behave as expected, often due to a short, open, or excessive resistance.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- One or more interior lights fail to illuminate when a door is opened or the switch is turned on.
- Interior lights stay on continuously, even after all doors are closed and the ignition is off.
- The interior lights may flicker or operate intermittently, especially over bumps.
- The warning light on the dashboard may be the only sign, with no obvious lighting malfunction.
- Other body electrical functions (such as door ajar chimes or remote keyless entry) may behave erratically if the fault affects shared circuits.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A burned-out bulb or faulty light assembly in the interior light circuit.
- 2 A short to ground or short to voltage in the wiring between the BCM and the interior lights.
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connectors at the light fixtures, door jamb switches, or BCM.
- 4 A failed door jamb switch or courtesy lamp switch that keeps the circuit energized or open.
- 5 Water intrusion or physical damage to the wiring harness, often near door hinges or headliner.
- 6 A faulty body control module (BCM) internal driver for the interior light circuit.
- 7 Aftermarket accessories (e.g., alarm systems, dash cams) improperly tapped into the interior light wiring.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the fault by checking all interior lights with doors open and closed, and note any that are inoperative or stay on.
- 2 Inspect the bulbs and light assemblies for corrosion, damage, or incorrect bulbs, and replace as needed.
- 3 Check the fuses related to the interior lighting circuit and replace any blown fuse after identifying the cause.
- 4 Disconnect the battery and inspect the wiring harness and connectors at the lights, door switches, and BCM for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 5 Use a multimeter to test for continuity, shorts to ground, and voltage drops on the interior light circuit, comparing to factory specifications.
- 6 Test the door jamb switches and courtesy lamp switches for proper operation and replace if faulty.
- 7 If all external components and wiring test good, diagnose the BCM with a scan tool and perform circuit tests as directed by the service information; replace the BCM only after confirming it is the source.

Common Misdiagnosis Traps for B0970

- A common oversight is replacing the BCM when the real problem is a shorted bulb socket or corroded connector that mimics a module failure.
- Aftermarket LED bulbs can draw different current than the BCM expects, setting a false B0970 even though the lights work normally.
- The interior light circuit often shares a ground point with other body systems, so a bad ground can cause multiple unrelated codes and symptoms.
- Water leaks from a clogged sunroof drain or roof seam can corrode the headliner harness and trigger this code without any visible exterior damage.
- The BCM may set B0970 if the battery voltage is low or unstable, so always check the charging system before condemning the module.

Can I keep driving with B0970?

This code rarely affects vehicle safety or drivability, so you can usually continue driving. However, if the interior lights stay on continuously, they can drain the battery, so avoid leaving the vehicle parked for long periods until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with body code capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Trim removal tools
- Service information or wiring diagrams



Reading B0970

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

Often seen with

U0140 Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

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/b0970/>

