

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0074

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

C0074

Requested Driving Torque

This code indicates that the vehicle's computer has detected a mismatch between the driver's requested torque and the actual torque being delivered by the powertrain. The computer monitors signals from the accelerator pedal position sensor and compares them to calculated engine output, and when the difference exceeds a calibrated threshold for a set time, it stores this code. It is a generic code that can appear on many vehicles with electronic throttle control systems.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Chassis	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light or electronic throttle warning light illuminates on the dashboard.
- The engine may enter limp mode, limiting speed and power to protect the drivetrain.
- Acceleration may feel sluggish or unresponsive when pressing the accelerator pedal.
- The transmission may shift harshly or refuse to downshift when extra power is requested.
- In some cases, there are no noticeable symptoms besides the warning light.
- Cruise control may become inoperative or disengage unexpectedly.

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty accelerator pedal position sensor or its wiring connector.
- Contaminated or failing mass airflow sensor sending incorrect load signals to the computer.
- Throttle body carbon buildup or a sticking throttle plate preventing proper airflow.
- Software calibration issues in the engine control module requiring a reflash or update.
- Vacuum leaks or intake leaks causing a discrepancy between requested and actual torque.
- Wiring harness damage or corrosion between the pedal sensor, throttle body, and computer.
- A failing engine control module or throttle actuator control module, though this is less common.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use an OBD-II scanner to read all stored and pending codes, and record freeze-frame data to understand the conditions when the fault set.
- 2 Visually inspect the accelerator pedal sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, loose pins, or damage, and clean or repair as needed.
- 3 Check the throttle body for carbon buildup and clean it with an approved throttle body cleaner, then perform a throttle relearn procedure if required.
- 4 Test the mass airflow sensor with a multimeter or scan tool to verify its readings are within specification, and replace if faulty.
- 5 Smoke test the intake system to locate any vacuum or intake leaks that could cause torque delivery errors.
- 6 Check for technical service bulletins or software updates for the engine control module that address torque request faults.
- 7 If all else fails, perform a pinpoint test of the accelerator pedal position sensor and throttle actuator circuits using a factory wiring diagram, and replace the faulty component.

Common Misdiagnosis Traps for Torque Request Codes

- Many technicians replace the accelerator pedal assembly first, but a dirty throttle body or a failing mass airflow sensor is often the real culprit because they distort the actual torque calculation.
- This code can be set by a low battery or charging system issue that causes voltage drops, leading to erratic sensor signals that the computer interprets as a torque mismatch.
- After cleaning the throttle body or replacing components, a throttle relearn procedure is often required; skipping it can cause the code to return immediately.
- In some vehicles, this code may be accompanied by transmission codes because the computer limits engine torque to protect the transmission, so always check for related codes in other modules.
- A loose or damaged ground strap between the engine and chassis can cause intermittent sensor failures that trigger this code without any hard fault in the sensors themselves.

Can I keep driving with C0074?

You can usually drive the vehicle to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing, and be prepared for the engine to enter limp mode. If the vehicle is already in limp mode, limit driving to a short distance at low speed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Throttle body cleaner and shop rags
- Smoke machine for intake leak testing
- Factory service information or wiring diagrams



Reading C0074

- C** Chassis: brakes, steering and suspension.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 0** Brakes, steering and suspension.
- 74** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0121 Throttle Position Sensor A Circuit Range/Performance · **P0221** Throttle Position Sensor B Circuit Range/Performance · **P0638** Throttle Actuator Control Range/Performance (Bank 1) · **P2101** Throttle Actuator Control Motor Circuit Range/Performance · **P2135** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor A/B Voltage Correlation

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Manual Transmission Works: Four-Speed Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0074/>

