

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0082

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0082

Brake System Malfunction Indicator

C0082 is a generic chassis code indicating that the brake system malfunction indicator has been commanded on by a control module, meaning the module has detected a fault serious enough to illuminate the brake warning lamp. The computer is not pointing to one specific component; it is reporting that the brake system's self-diagnostic logic has set the warning indicator because a monitored circuit or subsystem failed its plausibility check.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The red brake warning light stays illuminated after the bulb check and does not go out when the parking brake is released.
- A chime or message such as 'Brake System Fault' or 'Service Brake System' appears on the driver information display.
- The anti-lock braking system (ABS) warning light may also be on, since the ABS module often controls the brake indicator.
- Electronic stability control (ESC) or traction control may be disabled, with the corresponding warning lamp lit.
- The brake pedal may feel normal, or it may feel softer or longer than usual if a hydraulic fault is present.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal braking performance in everyday driving.

Common causes, most likely first

- Low brake fluid level in the master cylinder reservoir, often from worn pads or a slow leak.
- A faulty brake fluid level sensor or its wiring, falsely reporting a low-fluid condition.
- A defective ABS or ESC control module that has failed its internal self-test and commanded the brake indicator.
- A wheel speed sensor or its harness with an open or short circuit, which the module interprets as a brake system fault.
- A problem with the parking brake switch or circuit, causing the module to believe the parking brake is still applied.
- A communication fault on the controller area network (CAN) bus between the ABS module and other modules, preventing valid brake status data.
- A failing brake pressure sensor or hydraulic pump motor circuit inside the ABS modulator assembly.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the brake fluid level in the master cylinder reservoir and inspect for leaks at the calipers, wheel cylinders, and lines.
- 2 Scan all modules for stored codes, not just the ABS module, and record freeze-frame data to see what conditions set C0082.
- 3 Inspect the brake fluid level sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, looseness, or damage, and test the sensor signal with a multimeter.
- 4 Test the parking brake switch and its circuit to confirm the module is not seeing a false applied signal.
- 5 Check wheel speed sensor signals and harnesses at each wheel for continuity and correct AC voltage while rotating the wheel.
- 6 Verify battery voltage and ground integrity at the ABS module, since low voltage can trigger false brake indicator commands.
- 7 If all external circuits test good, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow for the ABS module, which may require module replacement or reprogramming.

What the brake warning light is really telling you

- C0082 is often set by a low brake fluid level that has nothing to do with a failed ABS module, so always check the reservoir before condemning electronics.
- A weak or failing battery can cause the ABS module to log C0082 because the module's self-test fails during cranking when voltage drops too low.
- The brake warning indicator is frequently controlled by the ABS module through the CAN bus, so a communication fault elsewhere can illuminate it without any hydraulic problem.
- After repairing the underlying fault, the warning light may stay on until the ABS module completes a successful drive cycle, so a test drive is part of the repair.
- Do not assume C0082 means the ABS system is disabled; on many vehicles the module keeps ABS active but logs the code and lights the lamp for the brake system fault.

Can I keep driving with C0082?

If the brake pedal feels normal and the fluid level is correct, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy braking or towing. If the pedal is soft, the fluid is low, or the light is accompanied by a red stop message, stop driving and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS and chassis module capability
- Digital multimeter
- Brake fluid level tester or clean syringe for fluid inspection
- Jack and jack stands for wheel speed sensor checks
- Manufacturer service information for module diagnostic flow



Reading C0082

- 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.
- 82** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0035 Left Front Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **C0040** Left Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit · **C0050** Right Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **C0110** ABS Pump Motor Circuit Malfunction · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0082/>

