

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C008A

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C008A

TCS Mode Control

C008A indicates that the traction control system (TCS) module has detected an internal fault in its mode control circuit or logic, preventing it from properly switching between traction control modes. The computer sets this code when the TCS mode control signal is out of expected range or the module cannot confirm the requested mode, often due to a faulty switch, wiring issue, or internal module failure.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- Traction control warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Traction control system may be disabled, allowing wheel spin on slippery surfaces
- Stability control (ESC) light may also be on if systems are integrated
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Possible intermittent operation of traction control modes if equipped with a mode selector
- Cruise control may be disabled as a precaution in some vehicles

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty traction control mode switch or button
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring or connector at the mode switch
- 3 Internal failure of the TCS/ABS control module
- 4 Poor ground connection for the TCS module or switch
- 5 Water intrusion into the switch or connector causing intermittent shorts
- 6 Software glitch or corrupted module calibration

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored codes and freeze frame data to confirm C008A is current
- 2 Inspect the traction control mode switch for physical damage or sticking, and test its continuity
- 3 Check wiring and connectors between the switch and the TCS module for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 4 Verify power and ground supplies to the TCS module, including grounds for cleanliness and tightness
- 5 Perform a module reset or software update if applicable, following manufacturer procedures
- 6 If all external circuits test good, replace and reprogram the TCS/ABS control module as needed
- 7 Clear codes and perform a road test to verify the repair and ensure no pending codes return



Common misdiagnosis of C008A

- A faulty mode switch is often overlooked because the switch may still feel normal but have high resistance internally, causing the module to set the code intermittently.
- Water intrusion into the switch or connector is a frequent cause, especially on vehicles where the switch is located in the center console or near cup holders.
- The code can be set by a low battery or charging system issue that causes voltage spikes, so always check battery health and charging voltage before replacing modules.
- On some vehicles, the TCS mode control is integrated into the ABS module, and a failure in the ABS system can trigger C008A as a secondary code.
- After replacing the TCS module, programming and calibration are often required; skipping this step can lead to repeat codes or improper operation.

Can I keep driving with C008A?

You can generally continue driving with C008A, but be aware that traction control may be disabled, reducing stability on slippery surfaces. Avoid aggressive acceleration or sharp maneuvers in wet or icy conditions, and have the system inspected soon to restore full safety features.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS/TCS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Manufacturer-specific diagnostic software for module programming

Reading C008A

- 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.
- 8A** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0081 Wheel Speed Mismatch (Rear Axle) · **C0082** Brake System Malfunction Indicator · **C0083** Tire Pressure Monitor Malfunction Indicator · **C0084** Traction Active Indicator · **C0085** Traction Disable Indicator



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [EV Powertrain Trainer: How an Electric Car Drives](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c008a/>

