

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0098

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0098

4WD/AWD Rear Differential Unit Actuator B Data

C0098 indicates that the control module for the four-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive system has detected a data fault with the rear differential actuator, specifically circuit or signal 'B'. The computer is not receiving the expected feedback or command confirmation from that actuator circuit, so it sets this code and may disable the rear differential lock or torque distribution function.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The all-wheel-drive or four-wheel-drive warning light illuminated on the dashboard.
- The rear differential lock may fail to engage or disengage when selected.
- A noticeable loss of traction or handling stability on slippery surfaces.
- The vehicle may default to two-wheel drive, with a message displayed in the driver information center.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent.

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged, corroded, or disconnected wiring or connector at the rear differential actuator.
- Failed rear differential actuator motor or its internal position sensor.
- Blown fuse or poor ground connection serving the actuator circuit.
- Faulty control module software or internal driver circuit for actuator 'B'.
- Mechanical binding or obstruction in the rear differential locking mechanism.
- Water intrusion into the actuator connector or housing causing signal interference.

How to diagnose and fix it

- Scan all modules and record freeze-frame data to confirm C0098 is active and not a history code.
- Inspect the rear differential actuator harness and connector for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins.
- Check the fuse and ground for the actuator circuit with a multimeter and test light.
- Command the actuator with a bidirectional scan tool and observe whether it moves and reports position.
- Measure resistance and voltage on the 'B' signal circuit while wiggling the harness to catch intermittent faults.
- If wiring and power are good, remove the actuator and check for mechanical binding in the differential lock mechanism.
- Replace the actuator or repair the control module as indicated, then clear codes and verify proper operation.

Before you replace the rear differential actuator

- A loose or corroded ground at the rear differential is a frequent cause of this code that gets overlooked when technicians focus on the actuator itself.
- The code can set intermittently from water splash or off-road debris hitting the connector, so a road test over bumps after clearing may be needed to confirm the repair.
- A binding rear differential lock mechanism can mimic an electrical actuator failure by stalling the motor and setting a data fault, so always check for mechanical freedom.
- Some vehicles require a relearn or calibration procedure after actuator replacement, and skipping it will immediately reset C0098.
- C0098 can be set by a low battery or voltage spike during cranking, so check battery health before condemning the actuator.

Can I keep driving with C0098?

You can usually drive the vehicle, but the rear differential lock or all-wheel-drive function may be disabled, reducing traction in low-grip conditions. Avoid towing, off-road use, or driving on slippery surfaces until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Socket and ratchet set
- Wire terminal pick and electrical contact cleaner

Reading C0098

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

Often seen with

C0095 4WD/AWD Rear Differential Unit Actuator A · **C0096** 4WD/AWD Rear Differential Unit Actuator A Data · **C0097** 4WD/AWD Rear Differential Unit Actuator B · **C0099** ABS Control Module Internal Fault



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/c0098/>

