



## C00A4

# Driveline Control Module Rear Differential Unit B Control Circuit Driver

C00A4 indicates that the driveline control module has detected a fault in the electrical circuit that drives the rear differential control actuator, specifically the driver stage inside the module that powers the actuator. The module monitors the circuit for abnormal voltage or current and sets this code when the driver output does not match commanded values, which can prevent the rear differential from engaging or disengaging as intended.

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

## Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the driveline or stability control warning light on the dashboard.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent.
- The rear differential may fail to lock or unlock, leading to reduced traction or binding in tight turns.
- Audible clicking or whirring from the rear differential area when the system attempts to engage.
- The vehicle may enter a reduced-power or limp mode if the driveline control module deems the fault critical.
- Inconsistent handling or stability control intervention on slippery surfaces.

## Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the rear differential actuator.
- 2 Failed rear differential control actuator or its internal motor.
- 3 Faulty driveline control module driver circuit, often due to internal electronics failure.
- 4 Blown fuse or relay supplying power to the actuator circuit.
- 5 Water intrusion or debris in the actuator connector causing high resistance.
- 6 Poor ground connection for the driveline control module or actuator.
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or improper previous repairs interfering with the circuit.



## How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related driveline or stability control codes.
- 2 Inspect the wiring and connector at the rear differential actuator for damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 3 Check the fuse and relay that supply power to the actuator circuit and replace if faulty.
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage at the actuator connector to confirm the driver output and ground integrity.
- 5 Test the actuator directly with a known-good power source to see if it operates smoothly.
- 6 If the actuator tests good, check the driveline control module for internal driver faults using a bidirectional scan tool.
- 7 Repair or replace the faulty component, clear the code, and perform a relearn or calibration procedure if required.

## Before you replace the differential actuator

- A loose or corroded connector at the actuator is a far more common cause than a failed actuator itself, so always inspect the pins and seals first.  
The driveline control module driver can be damaged by a shorted actuator, so replacing only the module without checking the actuator often leads to a repeat failure.
- Intermittent codes that appear only in wet weather often point to water intrusion in the connector or a chafed harness near the rear subframe.
- Some vehicles require a calibration or relearn after any actuator or module replacement, and skipping this step will keep the code active even with good parts.  
A weak battery or charging system can cause the module to set false driver codes, so verify system voltage before condemning expensive components.

## Can I keep driving with C00A4?

You can usually drive the vehicle with this code, but the rear differential may not engage properly, reducing traction and stability in slippery conditions. Avoid aggressive driving or towing until the fault is repaired, and address the issue promptly to prevent further damage to the driveline system.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the driveline control circuit
- Socket and ratchet set
- Electrical contact cleaner and dielectric grease



## Reading C00A4

- 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.
- A4** The exact fault within that area.

## Often seen with

**P1870** Transmission Component Slipping · **C00A5** Driveline Control Module Transfer Case Unit Control Circuit  
 · **C00A6** 4WD/AWD Transfer Case Unit Actuator · **U0102** Lost Communication with Transfer Case Control Module

## See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Car Relay Test Bench: Test 4-Pin and 5-Pin Relays](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c00a4/>

