

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C00A5

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

C00A5

Driveline Control Module Transfer Case Unit Control Circuit Driver

The C00A5 code indicates that the Driveline Control Module (DCM) has detected a fault in the electrical circuit that drives the transfer case control unit, which is responsible for engaging and disengaging the transfer case. The module monitors the circuit for expected voltage or current and sets this code when the signal is out of range, indicating an open, short, or excessive resistance in the driver circuit.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the transfer case or driveline warning light on the dashboard
- Inability to shift the transfer case between two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive modes
- The transfer case may remain stuck in one mode, often defaulting to two-wheel drive
- Audible clicking or whirring from the transfer case actuator that does not result in engagement
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent
- Reduced off-road capability or traction in slippery conditions

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or corroded wiring harness between the Driveline Control Module and the transfer case control unit
- 2 Failed transfer case control actuator motor or its internal driver circuit
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the transfer case control unit connector
- 4 Blown fuse or relay supplying power to the transfer case control circuit
- 5 Faulty Driveline Control Module (less common)
- 6 Water intrusion or contamination in the transfer case control unit connector
- 7 Aftermarket accessories improperly wired into the transfer case circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related codes in the Driveline Control Module
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors at the transfer case control unit for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 3 Check the fuse and relay that supply power to the transfer case control circuit
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage on the driver circuit at the control unit and compare to factory specifications
- 5 Test the transfer case actuator motor directly with a known-good power source to confirm operation
- 6 If the actuator is faulty, replace the transfer case control unit and retest the system
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to verify the repair and ensure the transfer case engages properly

Before you replace the transfer case actuator

- A common oversight is assuming the actuator is defective when the real problem is a chafed wire in the harness near the transfer case, often caused by road debris or improper routing during previous repairs.
- The C00A5 code can be set by a weak battery or charging system issue that causes low voltage during transfer case engagement, so always check battery health and ground connections first.
- Some vehicles require a relearn or calibration procedure after replacing the transfer case control unit, and skipping this step will cause the code to return immediately.
- Intermittent faults often occur only when the vehicle is cold or after driving through water, so a wiggle test of the harness while monitoring live data can reveal the problem when a static test does not.
- The Driveline Control Module may set this code even if the transfer case mechanically engages, because the code monitors the electrical driver circuit, not the mechanical outcome.

Can I keep driving with C00A5?

You can usually continue driving if the vehicle remains in two-wheel drive, but avoid relying on four-wheel drive or driving in conditions that require it. If the transfer case is stuck in four-wheel drive, avoid dry pavement and have the vehicle inspected promptly to prevent driveline damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Test light
- Socket and ratchet set
- Trim removal tools



Reading C00A5

- 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.
- A5** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C00A4 Driveline Control Module Rear Differential Unit B Control Ci · **C00A6** 4WD/AWD Transfer Case Unit Actuator · **C00A7** 4WD/AWD Transfer Case Unit Actuator Position Sensor A · **C0561** ABS Disabled Warning Indicator Request · **U0102** Lost Communication with Transfer Case Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Notebook: The Otto Cycle Explained](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c00a5/>

