

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0131

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0131

Master Cylinder Pressure Sensor Range/Performance

C0131 means the antilock braking system (ABS) module has detected that the master cylinder pressure sensor signal is outside its expected range or is not performing as designed. The computer compares the sensor's voltage against known pressure values and flags the code when the signal is implausible, erratic, or stuck within a key-on or driving cycle.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- ABS warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Traction control or stability control warning light also on
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Reduced or disabled ABS and traction control functions
- Brake pedal feel that seems normal but ABS does not activate during hard stops
- Intermittent warning light that comes and goes with temperature or vibration

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty master cylinder pressure sensor
- 2 Damaged or corroded sensor wiring or connector
- 3 Contaminated or degraded brake fluid affecting sensor readings
- 4 Air trapped in the master cylinder or hydraulic system
- 5 Failed ABS control module or internal sensor circuit
- 6 Low brake fluid level or a hydraulic leak
- 7 Mechanical binding or wear inside the master cylinder



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check brake fluid level and inspect for leaks around the master cylinder and lines
- 2 Scan all modules for stored and pending codes, and record freeze-frame data if available
- 3 Inspect the pressure sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 4 Test the sensor signal with a scan tool while applying brake pressure to verify linear voltage output
- 5 Perform a brake fluid flush and bleed the system if fluid is dark or contaminated
- 6 Replace the master cylinder pressure sensor if signal testing confirms it is out of range
- 7 Clear codes and road-test the vehicle to confirm the repair and verify ABS operation

What the pressure sensor code hides

- A low brake fluid level or a small leak can set C0131 because the sensor reads pressure outside the expected range for the pedal position.
- Corroded pins at the sensor connector often mimic a failed sensor, so always wiggle-test the harness while watching live data before replacing parts.
- Air in the hydraulic system after a poor bleed job can cause erratic pressure readings that trigger this code without any hard part failure.
- The ABS module may set C0131 as a companion code when the wheel speed sensors or steering angle sensor are faulty, so check for other codes first.
- Replacing the sensor without checking brake fluid condition and bleeding the system can lead to a repeat code and wasted expense.

Can I keep driving with C0131?

The vehicle remains safe to drive under normal conditions because the base brakes still work, but ABS and traction control may be disabled. Avoid hard braking or slippery road conditions until the fault is repaired, and address any low brake fluid level immediately.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS and live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Brake pressure gauge
- Brake bleeder kit
- Socket and wrench set
- Flashlight and inspection mirror



Reading C0131

- C** Chassis: brakes, steering and suspension.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 1** Brakes, steering and suspension.
- 31** 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 · **C0121** Valve Relay Circuit Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How the PCV System Works: Crankcase Ventilation](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0131/>

