

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0196

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0196

Yaw Rate Sensor Circuit

C0196 indicates that the vehicle's stability control module has detected a fault in the yaw rate sensor circuit, which measures how fast the vehicle is rotating around its vertical axis. The computer monitors the sensor's signal voltage and sets this code when the signal is out of range, erratic, or missing entirely, disabling the electronic stability control (ESC) system as a result.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The stability control warning light (often a car with squiggly lines) illuminates on the dashboard.
- The traction control or ESC system may be disabled, and the vehicle may not correct skids or loss of traction.
- A related message such as 'Service StabiliTrak' or 'ESC Off' may appear on the driver information center.
- The anti-lock brake system (ABS) warning light may also illuminate if the yaw sensor shares data with the ABS module.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, and the vehicle drives normally in non-emergency situations.
- In some cases, the vehicle may feel unstable during sharp turns or evasive maneuvers because stability control is inactive.

Common causes, most likely first

- A faulty yaw rate sensor, which is the most common cause of this code.
- Damaged or corroded wiring or connectors between the yaw rate sensor and the stability control module.
- A blown fuse or poor ground connection supplying power to the yaw rate sensor circuit.
- A malfunctioning stability control module that cannot process the yaw sensor signal correctly.
- A yaw rate sensor that has been physically dislodged or improperly mounted, causing incorrect readings.
- Voltage supply issues, such as a weak battery or charging system problem, affecting sensor operation.
- Aftermarket accessories or recent repairs that disturbed the sensor or its wiring.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool that can read stability control module codes, and check for any related codes in the ABS and ESC systems.
- 2 Inspect the yaw rate sensor, its connector, and the wiring harness for visible damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 3 Check the fuse and ground connections for the yaw rate sensor circuit using a multimeter and a wiring diagram.
- 4 Measure the sensor's signal voltage and compare it to the manufacturer's specification while the vehicle is stationary and during a test drive.
- 5 If the sensor signal is out of range, replace the yaw rate sensor and perform any required calibration or zero-point reset with a scan tool.
- 6 If the sensor and wiring test good, diagnose the stability control module for internal faults or software issues.
- 7 Clear the codes and perform a road test to confirm the repair, ensuring the ESC system is fully functional.

Yaw Sensor Faults That Fool Technicians

- A misaligned or improperly mounted yaw rate sensor can set C0196 even when the sensor itself is good, so always check that it is securely fastened and free of debris.
- Low battery voltage or a weak charging system can cause intermittent yaw sensor codes, so test the battery and charging system before condemning the sensor.
- The yaw rate sensor often shares a harness with the lateral acceleration sensor, and a short in that shared circuit can set C0196 along with other codes.
- After replacing the yaw rate sensor, a calibration or zero-point reset is usually required; skipping this step will cause the code to return immediately.
- C0196 can be set by a faulty stability control module that fails to provide the correct reference voltage to the sensor, so don't overlook module diagnostics.

Can I keep driving with C0196?

You can generally drive the vehicle with C0196, but the stability control system will be disabled, which reduces safety in emergency maneuvers. Avoid aggressive driving, sharp turns, and slippery conditions until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- Scan tool with stability control module capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the yaw rate sensor circuit
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Calibration tool or scan tool with reset function



Reading C0196

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

Often seen with

C0050 Right Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **C0110** ABS Pump Motor Circuit Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Radiator Fan Relay Circuit Works](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0196/>

