

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0201

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0201

Brake Fluid Level Switch Circuit

C0201 indicates that the antilock brake system (ABS) control module has detected an implausible signal from the brake fluid level switch circuit, meaning the switch is reporting a fluid level that does not match what the module expects based on other inputs. The computer does not necessarily see a low fluid level; it sees a voltage or resistance reading outside the normal range for the current conditions.

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 may also be on
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Brake pedal may feel normal, but ABS may be disabled
- In some cases, a red brake warning light may also appear if the fluid is genuinely low

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low brake fluid level due to a leak or normal pad wear
- 2 Faulty brake fluid level switch (sticking or open circuit)
- 3 Damaged or disconnected wiring to the switch
- 4 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the switch
- 5 Contaminated brake fluid causing the float to stick
- 6 Failed ABS control module (rare)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check brake fluid level in the reservoir and top up if low; inspect for leaks if fluid is consistently low.
- 2 Inspect the brake fluid level switch and its connector for corrosion, damage, or loose pins.
- 3 Disconnect the switch and check its resistance with a multimeter while moving the float; compare to specifications.
- 4 Check wiring continuity between the switch and the ABS module using a wiring diagram.
- 5 Clear the code and test-drive to see if it returns; if it does, follow the factory diagnostic flow chart for C0201.
- 6 If the switch and wiring test good, suspect the ABS module and perform further diagnostics before replacement.



Don't assume the fluid is actually low

- A common mistake is to assume the brake fluid is low and simply top it up without checking the switch circuit, which can leave the code unresolved if the switch is faulty.
- The brake fluid level switch often shares a ground with other sensors, so a bad ground can set this code along with others.
- On some vehicles, the ABS module monitors the switch only during key-on self-test, so an intermittent fault may not set the code until the next start cycle.
- A stuck float in the reservoir can cause the switch to report a constant low level even when the fluid is full, especially in older vehicles with contaminated fluid.
- The code can be set by a voltage drop in the circuit due to a poor connection, not just a failed switch, so always perform a voltage drop test under load.

Can I keep driving with C0201?

If the brake pedal feels normal and the fluid level is correct, the vehicle is generally safe to drive, but the ABS may be disabled, so avoid hard braking or slippery conditions until repaired. If the brake warning light is also on or the pedal feels soft, stop driving and have the brake system inspected immediately.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner with ABS capability
- Multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the vehicle
- Brake fluid (correct type for the vehicle)
- Basic hand tools (screwdrivers, pliers, socket set)

Reading C0201

C	Chassis: brakes, steering and suspension.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
2	Brakes, steering and suspension.
01	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0035 Left Front Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **C0200** ABS Solenoid Valve Front Left Circuit · **C0202** Brake Pedal Position Sensor · **C0205** Stop Lamp Switch Circuit



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0201/>

