

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0250

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0250

Power Steering Pump Pressure

C0250 indicates that the power steering control module has detected a fault in the hydraulic pressure circuit of the power steering pump, typically a pressure that is out of range or inconsistent with steering input. The computer monitors the pressure sensor signal and sets this code when the expected pressure does not match actual conditions, which can affect steering assist.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the power steering warning light or a message on the driver information center
- Heavier than normal steering effort, especially at low speeds or during parking maneuvers
- Intermittent or complete loss of power steering assist
- Whining or groaning noises from the power steering pump
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, particularly if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low power steering fluid level due to a leak in the system
- 2 Faulty power steering pressure sensor or a damaged sensor wiring harness
- 3 A failing power steering pump that cannot build or maintain correct pressure
- 4 Restriction in the power steering system, such as a blocked filter or collapsed hose
- 5 Air trapped in the power steering system after recent service
- 6 Corroded or loose electrical connections at the pressure sensor or control module

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the power steering fluid level and condition, and top up or replace fluid as needed
- 2 Inspect the pressure sensor and its wiring for damage, corrosion, or loose connections
- 3 Perform a visual inspection for fluid leaks around the pump, hoses, and steering gear
- 4 Use a scan tool to read live pressure sensor data and compare with specifications
- 5 Test the power steering pump pressure with a hydraulic gauge to verify it meets manufacturer specifications
- 6 Bleed the power steering system to remove trapped air if the fluid was recently serviced
- 7 Replace the faulty pressure sensor, pump, or affected wiring as determined by diagnosis



Pressure sensor faults often mimic pump failure

- A contaminated or failing pressure sensor can send erratic signals that set C0250 even when the pump is mechanically sound, so always verify sensor output before condemning the pump.
- Low fluid level from a slow leak is a common cause that many owners overlook because the leak may not produce visible drips on the driveway.
- After any power steering repair, air must be bled from the system; trapped air can cause pressure fluctuations that trigger C0250.
- On some vehicles, a weak battery or charging system issue can cause voltage drops that affect sensor readings and set this code, so check the electrical system first.
- The code may be stored as historical if the fault was momentary; clearing it and test-driving can confirm whether it is a hard fault or an intermittent glitch.

Can I keep driving with C0250?

You can usually continue driving with C0250, but be prepared for increased steering effort, especially at low speeds. Avoid high-speed maneuvers or heavy steering loads until the fault is repaired, as loss of assist could compromise control.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Power steering pressure test gauge
- Multimeter for electrical testing
- Fluid siphon or turkey baster for fluid service
- Wrench set and screwdrivers for component access

Reading C0250

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

Often seen with

C0252 Pump Motor Ground Circuit Open



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Padlock Works: Pin Tumbler Lock in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0250/>

