

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0265

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0265

EBCM Relay Circuit

C0265 indicates that the electronic brake control module (EBCM) has detected a fault in its internal relay circuit, which is responsible for powering the pump motor and solenoid valves during antilock braking and stability control events. The EBCM monitors the relay's voltage and current and sets this code when the circuit does not behave as expected, often due to a failed relay, wiring issue, or internal EBCM fault.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Antilock brake system (ABS) warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Traction control or stability control warning light may also be on
- ABS and traction control systems disabled, though normal braking remains functional
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- In some cases, a faint click or no click from the EBCM relay when the ignition is turned on
- Reduced brake assist or unusual pedal feel is rare but possible if the relay fault affects pump operation

Common causes, most likely first

- Failed EBCM relay (internal or external, depending on vehicle design)
- Blown fuse or fusible link supplying power to the EBCM relay circuit
- Corroded, loose, or damaged wiring or connectors in the EBCM relay circuit
- Faulty ground connection for the EBCM or relay
- Internal failure within the EBCM itself
- Water intrusion or corrosion at the EBCM connector
- Aftermarket accessories improperly wired into the ABS circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check all fuses and fusible links related to the ABS system and EBCM relay circuit
- 2 Inspect the EBCM relay (if serviceable) and test or swap with a known-good relay of the same type
- 3 Visually inspect wiring and connectors at the EBCM and relay for corrosion, damage, or looseness
- 4 Perform voltage and resistance tests on the relay control circuit and ground circuits using a multimeter
- 5 Clear the code and test-drive the vehicle to see if it returns; if it does, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow chart
- 6 If all external circuits check out, suspect the EBCM and perform pinpoint tests as per service information
- 7 Replace the EBCM only after confirming power, ground, and relay control signals are correct

Before you replace the EBCM

- A weak or failing battery or charging system can cause voltage drops that trigger C0265, so always check battery health and connections first.
- On many vehicles, the EBCM relay is integrated into the EBCM and not separately serviceable, leading to unnecessary EBCM replacement when only a fuse or wire is at fault.
- Corrosion at the EBCM connector is a common hidden cause, especially on vehicles driven in wet or salty conditions.
- C0265 can be set by a momentary voltage spike or glitch; clearing the code and verifying it does not return is a valid first step after checking basics.
- Some scan tools cannot communicate with the EBCM if the relay circuit is completely dead, so ensure the tool is capable of reading ABS codes before condemning the module.

Can I keep driving with C0265?

The vehicle remains safe to drive under normal conditions because base braking is unaffected, but ABS and stability control are disabled, which increases stopping distance on slippery surfaces and reduces control during emergency maneuvers. Avoid driving in adverse weather or at high speeds until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Fuse puller
- Socket set and screwdrivers for trim and module access
- Service information or wiring diagrams for the specific vehicle



Reading C0265

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

Often seen with

C0110 ABS Pump Motor Circuit Malfunction · **C0121** Valve Relay Circuit Malfunction · **C0266** Active Brake Booster · **C0267** Brake Pump Motor Circuit · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Car Relay Test Bench: Test 4-Pin and 5-Pin Relays](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0265/>

