

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0400

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0400

Traction Control Solenoid Valve Circuit

C0400 indicates that the traction control module has detected an electrical fault in the circuit that operates one of the solenoid valves inside the hydraulic modulator assembly. The computer monitors the solenoid's voltage and current draw and sets this code when the expected electrical signature falls outside the programmed range, which disables traction control assist until the fault is repaired.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Traction control warning light illuminated steadily on the dashboard
- Traction control system disabled, often accompanied by the stability control light
- ABS warning light may also be on if the same hydraulic unit serves both systems
- Wheel slip during acceleration or on slippery surfaces because traction control no longer intervenes
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal braking performance
- In some vehicles, a chime or message center alert stating traction control is unavailable

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or corroded wiring harness at the traction control solenoid connector
- 2 Open or shorted solenoid coil inside the hydraulic modulator assembly
- 3 Failed traction control module or pump motor relay supplying power to the solenoid circuit
- 4 Blown fuse or poor ground connection serving the traction control module
- 5 Contaminated brake fluid or internal debris causing solenoid valve malfunction
- 6 Loose or damaged pins in the module connector preventing proper solenoid activation



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored and pending codes to confirm C0400 is current and not a history code
- 2 Inspect the traction control solenoid connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Check the fuse and ground connections for the traction control module and pump motor circuit
- 4 Measure solenoid resistance and compare to the manufacturer's specification using a digital multimeter
- 5 Perform a voltage drop test on the solenoid power and ground circuits while commanding the solenoid on with a scan tool
- 6 If electrical tests pass, replace the hydraulic modulator assembly or traction control module as indicated by the test results
- 7 Clear codes and verify the repair by test-driving the vehicle and confirming traction control operates normally

What the solenoid circuit test really reveals

- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the hydraulic modulator when the actual fault is a corroded connector pin or a chafed wire in the harness near the wheel well.
The traction control solenoid shares its hydraulic circuit with the ABS system on many vehicles, so a failing solenoid can also set ABS codes that point to the same root cause.
 - Low brake fluid or air trapped in the modulator can cause the solenoid to draw abnormal current, mimicking an electrical failure and leading to unnecessary parts replacement.
 - Some vehicles set C0400 when the battery voltage is low during cranking, so always check battery condition and charging system output before condemning the solenoid.
- After replacing a modulator or module, a scan tool with bidirectional control is often required to perform an adaptation or calibration procedure, otherwise the code may return.

Can I keep driving with C0400?

You can usually drive the vehicle with C0400 set because normal braking remains unaffected, but traction control and stability assist are disabled, so avoid aggressive acceleration and slippery road conditions until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and live data capability
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage drop functions
- Manufacturer-specific wiring diagram for the traction control circuit
- Socket set and trim removal tools for accessing the modulator and harness
- Brake fluid tester and bleeding equipment if hydraulic service is needed



Reading C0400

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

Often seen with

C0401 Traction Control Switch Circuit · **C0405** Traction Control Active Too Long · **C0410** Adaptive Cruise Control Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **C0450** Rear Wheel Steering Position Sensor Circuit · **C0550** Encoder Position Switch Circuit

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Cutaway: Intake to Exhaust](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0400/>

