

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0440

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0440

Steering Wheel Position Sensor Circuit

C0440 indicates that the steering wheel position sensor circuit has a fault, meaning the computer cannot reliably read the steering angle. The sensor reports how far and how fast the steering wheel is turned, and the control module has detected an out-of-range signal or a circuit continuity problem.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- Stability control (ESC) and traction control warning lights illuminated on the dashboard
- Steering assist warning light or a message such as 'Service Power Steering' displayed
- Reduced or disabled power steering assist, making the wheel harder to turn
- Stability control and traction control systems deactivated, often with a chime
- Vehicle pulling or wandering because the system cannot correct steering angle input
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal steering feel

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Steering wheel position sensor itself failed or internally worn
- 2 Damaged, chafed, or corroded wiring in the sensor circuit, especially at the steering column
- 3 Loose or contaminated electrical connector at the sensor or control module
- 4 Faulty clock spring (spiral cable) that carries the sensor signal through the rotating column
- 5 Poor ground or reference voltage supply to the sensor circuit
- 6 Steering angle sensor calibration lost after battery replacement or suspension work
- 7 Failing steering column control module or electronic power steering module

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for codes and record freeze-frame data to confirm C0440 is current and not history
- 2 Inspect the sensor connector and wiring at the steering column for looseness, corrosion, or chafing
- 3 Check sensor reference voltage and ground at the connector with a multimeter
- 4 Perform a steering angle sensor calibration or relearn procedure with a scan tool
- 5 Test the clock spring continuity if the sensor signal is intermittent when turning the wheel
- 6 Replace the steering wheel position sensor if voltage and wiring tests pass but the signal is erratic
- 7 Clear codes and road test to verify the repair, then recheck for returning codes



What the steering angle sensor really does

- A weak or failing battery can set C0440 because the sensor loses its learned center position when voltage drops during cranking.
- Many vehicles require a steering angle sensor calibration after an alignment, and skipping it will set this code even with a perfectly good sensor.
- The clock spring is a common hidden cause because it carries the sensor signal through the rotating column, and a broken spiral conductor mimics a failed sensor.
- C0440 can be stored by the stability control module rather than the power steering module, so scanning only one module may miss the underlying fault.
- Aftermarket steering column repairs or a replaced combination switch can leave the sensor misaligned, triggering the code until a relearn is performed.

Can I keep driving with C0440?

The vehicle remains steerable, but stability control and traction control are disabled, which reduces safety in slippery conditions or emergency maneuvers. Avoid high-speed driving and sharp evasive maneuvers, and have the fault diagnosed promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with steering angle sensor calibration capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools for steering column covers
- Wiring diagram for the steering wheel position sensor circuit
- Torque wrench for steering column fasteners

Reading C0440

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.
40	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0051 Front Left ABS Solenoid 1 Circuit Malfunction · **C0450** Rear Wheel Steering Position Sensor Circuit · **U0126** Lost Communication With Steering Angle Sensor Module



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Coolant Temperature Sensor Works](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0440/>

