

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0500

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0500

Anti-lock Brake System Disabled

C0500 is a generic body code indicating that the anti-lock brake system (ABS) has been disabled by its control module, usually because the module detected a fault that prevents safe ABS operation. The computer has commanded the ABS off and illuminated the ABS warning light, but the base hydraulic brakes remain functional.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Chassis	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	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 will not activate during hard braking
- In some vehicles, the speedometer or cruise control may stop working

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty wheel speed sensor or damaged sensor wiring
- Low brake fluid level or a hydraulic fault
- Defective ABS control module or pump motor
- Blown ABS fuse or relay
- Corroded or damaged ABS wiring harness connector
- Malfunctioning steering angle sensor or yaw rate sensor

How to diagnose and fix it

- Scan all modules for codes and record freeze-frame data to identify the root cause
- Inspect the ABS fuse and relay, and check for power and ground at the ABS module
- Visually inspect wheel speed sensors and wiring for damage or corrosion
- Measure wheel speed sensor resistance and check the signal with a scan tool while rotating each wheel
- Check brake fluid level and inspect for leaks in the hydraulic system
- If all else checks out, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow for the ABS module, which may require replacement or reprogramming



What the ABS module is really telling you

- C0500 is often a secondary code that sets because a wheel speed sensor fault or low voltage condition has already disabled the ABS, so always diagnose other stored codes first.
- A weak battery or charging system issue can cause the ABS module to disable itself and set C0500 without any physical brake problem.
- On many vehicles, the ABS module will disable the system if it detects a mismatch between wheel speeds, such as from mismatched tire sizes or a damaged tone ring.
- The code does not mean the ABS pump has failed; it only indicates the system is disabled, and the root cause could be as simple as a dirty wheel speed sensor.
- Clearing the code without repairing the underlying fault will usually result in the light returning after a short drive cycle.

Can I keep driving with C0500?

You can usually drive the vehicle with C0500 because the base brakes still work, but the ABS is disabled, so avoid hard braking or slippery conditions. Have the system diagnosed promptly to restore full braking safety.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Jack and jack stands
- Basic hand tools
- Brake fluid tester

Reading C0500

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

Often seen with

C0035 Left Front Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **C0040** Left Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit · **C0050** Right Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **C0110** ABS Pump Motor Circuit Malfunction · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control



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/c0500/>

