



C0533

Motor Control A Circuit Low

C0533 is a chassis code indicating that the electronic control module has detected a low-voltage condition on the motor control A circuit, which typically powers an actuator or motor used in a vehicle stability or steering system. The computer monitors the circuit's voltage and flags this code when the signal falls below the expected threshold, indicating a short to ground, an open circuit, or excessive resistance.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the stability control or traction control warning light
- Illumination of the ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) warning light
- Loss of stability control or traction control assistance
- A noticeable reduction in power steering assist if the affected motor is part of an electric power steering system
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Intermittent warning light that may come and go with vibration or temperature changes

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the motor control A circuit
- 2 Faulty motor or actuator that has an internal short to ground
- 3 Poor ground connection for the motor or control module
- 4 Failed control module (less common but possible)
- 5 Blown fuse or fusible link supplying power to the motor circuit
- 6 Water intrusion or contamination in the connector causing low voltage

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the motor control A circuit wiring and connectors for visible damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 2 Check the fuse and relay supplying power to the motor circuit and replace if blown
- 3 Measure resistance and voltage on the motor control A circuit to verify the low-voltage condition
- 4 Disconnect the motor and check for a short to ground or open circuit in the wiring
- 5 Test the motor directly with a known good power source to confirm it operates correctly
- 6 If the motor tests good, check the control module's ground and power feeds
- 7 Replace the faulty motor or control module as needed and clear the code



Common misdiagnosis traps for C0533

- A low-voltage code on a motor circuit is often caused by a poor ground connection rather than a failed motor, so always verify ground integrity before replacing parts.
- The motor control A circuit may be shared with other systems, so a fault in a related component can set this code even if the motor itself is fine.
- Intermittent low-voltage codes can be caused by vibration or thermal expansion affecting a marginal connection, so wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.
- Some vehicles require a relearn or calibration procedure after replacing the motor or module, and skipping this step can cause the code to return.
- The code does not always mean the motor is defective; a shorted wire or corroded connector can produce the same low-voltage signal.

Can I keep driving with C0533?

If the warning light is on but the vehicle drives normally, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid relying on stability control or traction control features. If you notice reduced steering assist or abnormal handling, stop driving and have the vehicle towed to prevent loss of control.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with chassis code capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Test light
- Socket set and trim removal tools

Reading C0533

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.
33	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0040 Left Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit · **C0050** Right Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **C0532** Motor Control A Circuit High · **C0534** Motor Control A Supply Voltage Circuit/Open · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Jet Engine Works: Two-Spool Turbofan](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0533/>

