

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0535

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0535

Motor Control B Range/Performance

C0535 indicates that the vehicle's computer has detected an out-of-range or performance fault in the electrical circuit for Motor Control B, which is a secondary actuator or motor output. The control module monitors the circuit's voltage or current and flags the code when the signal falls outside the expected operating window for a calibrated period.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the ABS or traction control warning light, depending on the system that Motor Control B serves
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the motor is a secondary function
- Intermittent or permanent loss of the motor-driven function, such as a brake hold or transfer case actuator
- Audible relay clicking or motor noise from the affected area when the ignition is turned on
- Reduced or disabled stability control, hill assist, or other chassis features tied to the motor
- A stored C0535 code with no other drivability complaints in many cases

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Corroded, loose, or damaged wiring or connector pins at the motor or control module
- 2 A failing motor or actuator that draws excessive current or binds mechanically
- 3 A short to ground or short to voltage in the motor control circuit
- 4 An open circuit in the power or ground path to the motor
- 5 A faulty control module driver internal to the ABS or chassis control module
- 6 Water intrusion or debris in the motor connector causing intermittent signals
- 7 A blown fuse or relay that supplies power to the motor circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the motor connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins, and clean or repair as needed
- 2 Check the fuse and relay that feed the motor circuit, replacing any that are blown or faulty
- 3 Measure resistance and voltage on the motor control circuit to confirm an open, short, or high resistance
- 4 Command the motor with a scan tool and observe live data to see if the code resets or the motor responds
- 5 Test the motor directly with a known-good power source to verify it moves freely and draws normal current
- 6 If the circuit and motor test good, check for a software update or reprogram the control module per manufacturer guidance
- 7 Replace the faulty motor or control module only after all circuit and component tests confirm the failure



What Motor Control B Really Means

- Motor Control B is not a universal label; it refers to a specific secondary motor output defined by the manufacturer, so the same code can point to different components on different vehicles.
- A binding or jammed mechanical linkage can set this code even when all electrical tests pass, because the motor draws high current trying to move a stuck part.
- Intermittent codes often trace to a connector that only loses contact during vibration or temperature swings, so wiggle-testing the harness while watching live data is essential.
- Replacing the motor without checking the control module's driver circuit can lead to a repeat failure if the module is the true source of the out-of-range signal.
- Some vehicles set C0535 as a companion code when the battery voltage is low during cranking, so always clear codes and verify charging system health before diagnosing the motor circuit.

Can I keep driving with C0535?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive if the only symptom is a warning light and the affected motor is a secondary function, but avoid using the associated feature and do not tow or drive aggressively if stability control is disabled. Have the fault diagnosed promptly, because a failed motor can affect brake or traction systems on some vehicles.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage measurement
- Wiring diagram and connector pinout for the specific vehicle
- Test light or fused jumper wires for circuit testing
- Basic hand tools for connector and component access

Reading C0535

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.
35	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0536 Motor Control B Circuit/Open · **C0537** Motor Control B Circuit High · **C0540** Hill Hold Control Performance · **C0550** Encoder Position Switch Circuit · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control



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/c0535/>

