

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0536

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

C0536

Motor Control B Circuit/Open

C0536 indicates that the anti-lock brake system (ABS) control module has detected an open circuit or excessive resistance in the motor control B circuit, which typically powers the ABS pump motor. The module monitors current flow through this circuit and sets the code when the expected voltage or current is missing, indicating a break in the wiring or a failed component.

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 warning light may also be on
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- ABS may be disabled, leading to longer stopping distances on slippery surfaces
- Intermittent warning light that comes and goes with vibration or temperature changes
- Pump motor may not run during a self-test, causing a lack of ABS function

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Open or damaged wire in the motor control B circuit, such as a broken conductor or corroded connector
- 2 Failed ABS pump motor, often due to worn brushes or internal open circuit
- 3 Blown fuse or faulty relay that supplies power to the ABS motor
- 4 Poor ground connection for the ABS pump motor or module
- 5 Corrosion or water intrusion in the ABS module connector
- 6 Faulty ABS control module, though less common than wiring or motor issues

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the ABS fuse and relay, replacing any that are blown or faulty
- 2 Visually inspect the motor control B circuit wiring for damage, corrosion, or loose connections
- 3 Disconnect the ABS pump motor connector and check for battery voltage on the control B circuit when the key is on
- 4 Measure resistance of the pump motor windings to check for an open circuit
- 5 Perform a voltage drop test on the ground circuit to ensure a good ground
- 6 If wiring and motor test good, suspect the ABS control module and test with a known-good unit
- 7 Clear the code and verify repair by performing a road test and checking for return of the code



Common misdiagnosis of C0536

- A failed ABS pump motor often sets C0536, but technicians frequently replace the control module first without testing the motor circuit.
- Corroded connectors at the ABS pump motor are a common cause that is easily overlooked during visual inspection.
- The motor control B circuit may share a ground with other systems, so a bad ground can cause this code along with other electrical gremlins.
- In some vehicles, the ABS module will set C0536 if the pump motor is seized, even though the electrical circuit is intact.
- Always check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) for the specific vehicle, as some models have known wiring harness issues.

Can I keep driving with C0536?

The vehicle can be driven with C0536, but the ABS and traction control systems may be disabled, increasing stopping distances in emergency situations. Avoid driving in slippery conditions and have the fault repaired promptly to restore full safety system function.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Basic hand tools for connector and component access
- Test light or power probe

Reading C0536

- 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.
- 36** 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 · **C0110** ABS Pump Motor Circuit Malfunction · **C0535** Motor Control B Range/Performance · **C0537** Motor Control B Circuit High



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Notebook: The Otto Cycle Explained](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0536/>

