

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C053B

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C053B

ABS Valves Supply Voltage Circuit/Open

C053B indicates that the anti-lock brake system (ABS) control module has detected a problem with the supply voltage circuit for the ABS solenoid valves, such as an open circuit, low voltage, or high resistance. The module monitors the voltage feed to the valve solenoids and sets this code when the voltage falls outside the expected range during self-test or operation. This can prevent the ABS from activating and may disable the stability control system.

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 also on
- ABS and traction control systems may be disabled, reducing braking safety in slippery conditions
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- In some cases, a soft or inconsistent brake pedal feel if the valve supply is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Blown fuse or fusible link supplying the ABS valve circuit
- 2 Corroded, loose, or damaged wiring or connector at the ABS module or valve body
- 3 Open or high-resistance circuit in the supply voltage wire to the ABS valve solenoids
- 4 Faulty ABS control module or valve body assembly
- 5 Poor ground connection for the ABS module or valve body
- 6 Low system voltage due to a weak battery or charging system issue

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the ABS fuses and relays in the underhood fuse box and replace any blown fuse
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors at the ABS module and valve body for corrosion, damage, or looseness
- 3 Measure battery voltage and charging system output to rule out low supply voltage
- 4 Use a multimeter to check for continuity and voltage drop on the supply circuit to the ABS valve solenoids
- 5 Check and clean the ABS module ground connections
- 6 If the circuit is intact, test the ABS valve body solenoids for resistance and compare to specifications
- 7 Replace the ABS control module or valve body if internal failure is confirmed



Don't overlook the simple electrical checks

- A weak battery or failing alternator can cause this code because the ABS module is sensitive to low voltage during cranking or high electrical load.
- Corrosion inside a connector that looks fine from the outside is a common cause, so always perform a voltage drop test under load rather than just a visual inspection.
- The code can set intermittently due to a chafed wire that only shorts when the vehicle hits a bump or the engine moves, so wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.
- Replacing the ABS module without checking the supply circuit first is a costly misdiagnosis, as the module is often not the root cause.
- Some vehicles require a relearn or calibration procedure after replacing the ABS module or valve body, which a generic scan tool may not support.

Can I keep driving with C053B?

You can usually drive the vehicle with this code, but the ABS and traction control systems may be disabled, so avoid hard braking or slippery conditions. Have the fault diagnosed promptly to restore full braking safety.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wiring diagram for the ABS circuit
- Socket set and trim removal tools

Reading C053B

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.
3B	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 · **C0121** Valve Relay Circuit Malfunction



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/c053b/>

