

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0545

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0545

VIN Not Programmed or Incompatible - BSCM

This code means the Body Control Module (BCM) has detected that the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) stored in the Brake System Control Module (BSCM) is either missing or does not match the VIN programmed into other modules on the vehicle. The BCM sets this code when it cannot confirm that the BSCM is correctly configured for this specific vehicle.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The antilock brake system (ABS) warning light and/or traction control light stays illuminated on the dashboard.
- The brake system may default to a reduced-function mode, disabling ABS and stability control assistance.
- A message such as 'Service Brake System' or 'Stability Control Disabled' may appear on the driver information center.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal brake pedal feel and braking performance in dry conditions.
- Remote start or other features that rely on VIN verification may fail to operate.
- In some cases, the vehicle may not start if the BSCM is part of the immobilizer verification chain.

Common causes, most likely first

- A replacement BSCM was installed without programming the VIN, leaving the module in an unconfigured state.
- The BSCM was programmed with a VIN from a different vehicle, often after a used module was swapped in.
- A software update or reflash was interrupted, corrupting the VIN data in the BSCM.
- The BCM itself was replaced or reprogrammed and now has a VIN that does not match the BSCM.
- A wiring fault or communication error on the controller area network (CAN) bus prevented the VIN from being written correctly during programming.
- A defective BSCM that cannot retain its programmed VIN due to internal memory failure.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and read all modules to confirm the VIN stored in the BSCM and compare it with the VIN in the BCM and engine control module (ECM).
- 2 Check for any communication codes (U-codes) that could indicate a wiring or CAN bus problem preventing VIN programming.
- 3 Verify that the BSCM part number is correct for the vehicle and that it is not a used unit from a different model or year.
- 4 Using a factory-level scan tool or equivalent, perform the BSCM VIN programming or setup procedure according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5 If programming fails, inspect the BSCM power, ground, and CAN bus wiring for opens, shorts, or corrosion.
- 6 If the BSCM cannot be programmed or repeatedly loses its VIN, replace the BSCM with a new or remanufactured unit and program it.
- 7 After successful programming, clear all codes and perform a road test to verify that the ABS and traction control systems operate correctly.

VIN Mismatch Traps in Brake Modules

- A common mistake is replacing the BSCM with a used unit from a salvage yard without programming the VIN, which immediately sets this code.
- Some vehicles require the BSCM to be programmed before it will communicate fully on the CAN bus, so a no-communication condition may actually be an unprogrammed module.
- This code can be set by a weak battery or poor ground connection that causes the BSCM to lose its memory during a programming event.
- Do not assume the BSCM is faulty just because the code is present; always verify the VIN in all related modules first.
- On some platforms, the BCM and BSCM share VIN verification, so a BCM replacement without proper programming can trigger this code even if the BSCM is original.

Can I keep driving with C0545?

You can generally drive the vehicle with this code, but the ABS and stability control systems may be disabled, so exercise extra caution in wet or slippery conditions and avoid hard braking. Have the VIN mismatch corrected as soon as possible to restore full safety system function.

Tools that help

- Factory-level scan tool or equivalent capable of module programming
- Digital multimeter for checking power, ground, and CAN bus integrity
- Wiring diagram for the BSCM and CAN bus circuits
- Battery charger to maintain stable voltage during programming
- Socket set and trim tools for accessing the BSCM



Reading C0545

- 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.
- 45** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0544 Brake Pressure Sensor B Circuit/Open · **C0546** VIN Not Programmed or Incompatible · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Helicopter Flies: Rotor and Tail in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0545/>

