

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0604

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0604

Active Air Dam Control Circuit Performance

The C0604 code indicates that the active air dam control module has detected a performance fault in the circuit that operates the movable aerodynamic panel at the front of the vehicle. The computer expects the air dam to move to commanded positions within a specific time and current window, and it has logged a deviation from that expected behavior.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the service vehicle soon or check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- The active air dam may remain stuck in the deployed (down) position, reducing fuel efficiency at highway speeds
- The air dam may fail to deploy at low speeds, potentially affecting engine cooling or aerodynamic stability
- A grinding or clicking noise from the front bumper area when the air dam attempts to move
- In some vehicles, a message on the driver information center indicating an aerodynamic feature fault

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Binding or physical obstruction of the air dam panel due to debris, ice, or collision damage
- 2 Failed actuator motor or gear mechanism inside the air dam assembly
- 3 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the air dam actuator
- 4 Faulty position sensor within the air dam assembly not reporting correct panel location
- 5 Water intrusion into the actuator or connector causing intermittent shorts
- 6 Control module software calibration issue or internal driver failure



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the air dam panel for physical damage, debris, or ice that prevents smooth movement, and clear any obstructions
- 2 Check the wiring harness and connector at the actuator for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins, and repair as needed
- 3 Command the air dam through a scan tool bidirectional test to observe actual movement and compare with commanded position
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage at the actuator motor and position sensor circuits to verify integrity
- 5 If the actuator is binding or the motor is faulty, replace the air dam assembly or actuator motor
- 6 Reprogram or update the control module with the latest calibration if a software issue is suspected
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to verify the repair and ensure the code does not return

Air Dam Faults That Fool Good Technicians

- A common oversight is replacing the actuator when the real problem is a bent or misaligned air dam panel that binds only at certain temperatures or speeds.
- The code can set intermittently due to water intrusion after car washes or heavy rain, and the connector may look dry by the time you inspect it.
- Some vehicles require a relearn or calibration procedure after any air dam service, and skipping it will cause the code to reset immediately.
- A weak battery or charging system fault can cause the control module to misreport actuator performance, so always verify system voltage first.
- The active air dam often shares a ground with other front-end components, and a corroded ground point can set this code along with unrelated faults.

Can I keep driving with C0604?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the air dam is an aerodynamic aid and does not affect braking or steering, but you should avoid high-speed driving until repaired to prevent potential overheating or reduced fuel economy. If the panel is loose or dragging, secure it before driving to avoid further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Socket and wrench set
- Trim removal tools
- Service information for the specific vehicle



Reading C0604

- C** Chassis: brakes, steering and suspension.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 6** Brakes, steering and suspension.
- 04** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0605 ESC Internal Performance · **C0606** Steering Wheel Angle Sensor Circuit Low · **P0A0F** Engine Failed to Start · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Wideband Air-Fuel Sensor Works](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0604/>

