

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0617

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0617

Park Brake Control Module Control Circuit Low

C0617 indicates that the park brake control module has detected a low-voltage condition on its control circuit, meaning the wire or connection that commands the electric parking brake is shorted to ground or has excessive resistance. The module sets this code when the voltage on the control circuit falls below the expected threshold during a command or self-test, preventing reliable operation of the parking brake.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- The parking brake warning light stays illuminated or flashes on the dashboard.
- The electric parking brake may fail to engage or release when the switch is operated.
- A chime or message may appear indicating a parking brake fault or service brake system.
- The vehicle may automatically apply the parking brake as a failsafe, or refuse to release it.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the brake functioning normally in some conditions.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A short to ground or chafed wire in the park brake control circuit, often where the harness passes through the floor or near the caliper.
- 2 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the park brake control module or at the parking brake actuator.
- 3 A faulty park brake control switch that internally shorts the control circuit to ground.
- 4 Water intrusion into the park brake control module or connector, causing low resistance on the control circuit.
- 5 A failed park brake control module with an internal driver fault that misreads the circuit voltage.
- 6 A poor ground connection for the park brake control module, raising reference voltage and mimicking a low circuit.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the park brake control module connector and the parking brake actuator connectors for corrosion, water, or loose pins, and clean or reseal as needed.
- 2 Disconnect the battery and use a digital multimeter to check the control circuit wire for continuity to ground with the module and switch disconnected; repair any short.
- 3 Test the park brake control switch for proper resistance and short-to-ground conditions, replacing it if out of specification.
- 4 Check the park brake control module ground circuit for excessive voltage drop under load, and clean or repair the ground point.
- 5 Clear the code and operate the parking brake several times to see if the code returns; if it does, substitute a known-good control module only after all wiring checks pass.
- 6 If the code persists after wiring and switch checks, replace the park brake control module and perform any required calibration or initialization with a scan tool.

Hidden causes of a low park brake circuit

- A chafed wire hidden inside the wheel well or under the console often causes this code, and the short only appears when the suspension moves or the seat is adjusted.
- The park brake control switch can develop internal carbon tracking that shorts the control circuit to ground without any visible damage, so a resistance test is more reliable than a visual check.
- Water intrusion into the park brake control module connector is common on vehicles with sunroof drains or rear hatch leaks, and the resulting corrosion mimics a failed module.
- A weak battery or charging system fault can cause the module to log C0617 because low system voltage affects the control circuit reference, so always check battery health first.
- This code does not always mean the module is bad; a simple loose ground bolt on the module bracket can set the same low-circuit fault.

Can I keep driving with C0617?

You can usually drive the vehicle with C0617, but the parking brake may not hold on a hill or may fail to release, so avoid parking on steep grades and confirm the brake is released before moving. If the brake drags or the warning light flashes continuously, have it inspected promptly to prevent overheating or rollaway risk.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter with continuity and voltage drop functions
- Scan tool capable of reading chassis codes and clearing the park brake module
- Trim removal tools for accessing connectors and harness routing
- Wiring diagram for the park brake control circuit
- Battery load tester or charging system tester



Reading C0617

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

Often seen with

C0616 Park Brake Control Module Control Circuit Performance · **C0618** Park Brake Control Module Control Circuit High · **C0619** Brake Pedal Position Sensor A Offset Exceeded Learning Limit · **C0620** Park Assist Module Communication · **U0128** Lost Communication With Park Brake Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0617/>

