

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0712

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0712

Power Steering Position Sensor Range/Performance

C0712 indicates that the power steering control module has detected an out-of-range or erratic signal from the steering position sensor, which is used to measure the driver's steering input. The module compares this signal with other sensor data and sets the code when the voltage or calculated position falls outside the expected range for a given driving condition.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- The power steering warning light or a stability control warning light illuminates on the dashboard.
- Steering assist may feel heavier or inconsistent, especially at low speeds or during parking maneuvers.
- The steering wheel may feel like it fights back or has a dead spot during turns.
- A stability control or traction control warning may appear because the system shares steering angle data.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal steering feel in many cases.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A faulty steering position sensor (also called steering angle sensor) that is worn or internally damaged.
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring and connectors between the sensor and the power steering control module.
- 3 A misaligned or improperly installed steering position sensor after suspension or steering column work.
- 4 Low battery voltage or a weak charging system causing erratic sensor readings.
- 5 A failing power steering control module that cannot correctly process the sensor signal.
- 6 A steering column or intermediate shaft issue that mechanically disturbs the sensor.
- 7 Aftermarket electronic accessories or poor grounds introducing electrical interference.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use an OBD-II scan tool to read the live data from the steering position sensor and compare it with the steering wheel angle while turning.
- 2 Inspect the sensor wiring and connectors for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins, and repair as needed.
- 3 Check battery voltage and charging system output to rule out low voltage as a cause.
- 4 Perform a steering angle sensor calibration or relearn procedure according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5 If the sensor signal is erratic or out of range, replace the steering position sensor and recalibrate.
- 6 If the sensor and wiring are good, test the power steering control module for proper power and ground, and replace if faulty.
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to verify the repair and ensure the code does not return.

What the steering position sensor really does

- The steering position sensor is often the same component that provides steering angle data to the electronic stability control system, so a fault can set stability control codes as well.
A common misdiagnosis is replacing the power steering rack or pump when the actual problem is a simple sensor calibration or a damaged connector.
- The sensor can be damaged by improper steering column repair or by forcing the steering wheel past its stops, which is often overlooked.
- Low battery voltage or a weak alternator can cause the power steering module to set this code intermittently, especially on vehicles with electric power steering.

After replacing or repairing the sensor, a calibration procedure is usually required; skipping it will cause the code to return immediately.

Can I keep driving with C0712?

You can usually continue driving to a repair shop, but be prepared for reduced or inconsistent steering assist, which can make low-speed maneuvers harder. Avoid aggressive driving and have the system checked promptly, especially if the steering feels unpredictable.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and steering angle sensor calibration capability
- Digital multimeter for checking voltage and continuity
- Basic hand tools for trim and connector removal
- Service information for calibration procedures



Reading C0712

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

Often seen with

C0051 Front Left ABS Solenoid 1 Circuit Malfunction · **C0710** Steering Position Signal Malfunction · **U0126** Lost Communication With Steering Angle Sensor Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How the PCV System Works: Crankcase Ventilation](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0712/>

