

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0823

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0823

Air Suspension Height Sensor Rear Right

C0823 indicates that the air suspension control module has detected a fault in the rear right height sensor circuit, which monitors the distance between the axle and body to maintain proper ride height. The computer compares the sensor's voltage signal against expected values and sets this code when the signal is out of range, erratic, or missing entirely.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- The air suspension warning light illuminates steadily on the dashboard.
- The rear right corner of the vehicle may sit lower or higher than the other corners.
- The air compressor may run excessively or not at all, depending on the failure mode.
- Ride quality becomes harsh or bouncy because the system cannot adjust damping or height correctly.
- A 'suspension fault' or 'ride height system' message may appear on the driver information display.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the sensor fails intermittently.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Physical damage to the height sensor linkage, such as a bent arm or worn ball studs.
- 2 Corrosion or water intrusion in the sensor electrical connector or wiring harness.
- 3 Failed height sensor internal electronics due to age or contamination.
- 4 Open or shorted circuit in the sensor wiring between the sensor and control module.
- 5 Faulty air suspension control module, though this is less common.
- 6 Improper suspension work that left the sensor disconnected or misaligned.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the rear right height sensor and its linkage for visible damage, corrosion, or loose connections.
- 2 Check the sensor connector for water intrusion, bent pins, or corroded terminals and clean or repair as needed.
- 3 Measure the sensor's reference voltage and signal voltage with a multimeter while moving the suspension through its range.
- 4 Perform a wiggle test on the wiring harness while monitoring sensor data to detect intermittent opens or shorts.
- 5 Compare the rear right sensor reading with the rear left sensor on a scan tool to identify a skewed signal.
- 6 If the sensor signal is erratic or out of specification, replace the height sensor and clear the code.
- 7 After repair, recalibrate the air suspension ride height using a scan tool and verify the code does not return.

Height sensor faults that mimic other failures

- A height sensor that reads incorrectly can cause the air suspension to vent or inflate the wrong corner, leading to a vehicle that sits unevenly even though the sensor itself is the only faulty part.
- The sensor linkage often seizes or breaks before the sensor electronics fail, so always inspect the mechanical arm and ball joints before condemning the sensor.
- Intermittent C0823 codes frequently result from a chafed wire in the harness near the rear wheel arch, where road debris and moisture attack the loom.
- Some vehicles require a ride height calibration after any suspension component replacement, and skipping this step will set C0823 even with a new sensor.
- A weak battery or low charging voltage can cause the control module to misread sensor signals, so verify battery health before replacing parts.

Can I keep driving with C0823?

You can usually drive the vehicle with C0823, but the air suspension may not adjust properly, leading to uneven ride height or a stiffer ride. Avoid carrying heavy loads or driving at high speeds until the fault is repaired, as handling and stability could be affected.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Jack and jack stands or a lift
- Basic hand tools (sockets, wrenches, screwdrivers)
- Wire probe and electrical contact cleaner



Reading C0823

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

Often seen with

C0822 Air Suspension Height Sensor Rear Left · **C0825** Steering Effort Sensor Range/Performance

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Coil-on-Plug Ignition Works: Coil and Spark Plug](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0823/>

