

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0825

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0825

Steering Effort Sensor Range/Performance

C0825 indicates that the steering control module has detected a range or performance fault in the steering effort sensor circuit, meaning the sensor's output is outside the expected voltage or signal pattern for a given steering input. The computer compares the sensor signal against other steering data and sets this code when the signal is erratic, stuck, or implausible.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the stability control (ESC) or power steering warning light
- Steering feels heavier or inconsistent, especially at low speeds
- Assist may drop out intermittently or feel numb on center
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Steering wheel may feel like it pulls or wanders slightly

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty steering effort sensor (internal wear or contamination)
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the sensor
- 3 Poor electrical ground for the steering control module
- 4 Steering column or sensor misalignment after repairs
- 5 Low battery voltage or charging system issues causing erratic sensor signals
- 6 Failed steering control module (less common)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify battery voltage and charging system output; low voltage can skew sensor readings
- 2 Inspect the steering effort sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Check the sensor's reference voltage and ground at the connector with a multimeter
- 4 Perform a steering angle sensor calibration or zero-point reset with a scan tool
- 5 Compare live steering effort sensor data against a known-good value or factory specification
- 6 Replace the steering effort sensor if signal is out of range and wiring is confirmed good
- 7 Clear codes and perform a road test to confirm the repair



Before you replace the steering effort sensor

- A weak battery or failing alternator can cause this code by dropping voltage to the sensor, so always load-test the battery first.
- The steering effort sensor is often integrated into the steering column or rack, and misalignment during unrelated suspension work can set this code.
- A scan tool with live data is essential; a simple code reader cannot show the sensor's actual voltage or performance.
- This code can be set by a steering angle sensor that is out of calibration, even if the effort sensor itself is fine.
- After replacing the sensor, a calibration procedure is usually required; skipping it will cause the code to return.

Can I keep driving with C0825?

You can usually drive the vehicle, but steering assist may be reduced or inconsistent, so avoid high-speed maneuvers and heavy steering loads until the fault is repaired. If the steering feels suddenly heavy or unpredictable, stop driving and have it inspected.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and steering calibration capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery load tester
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Factory service information for sensor specifications

Reading C0825

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.
25	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0051 Front Left ABS Solenoid 1 Circuit Malfunction · **C0820** Air Suspension Height Sensor Front Left · **C0821** Air Suspension Height Sensor Front Right · **U0126** Lost Communication With Steering Angle Sensor Module



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Elevator Works: Traction Lift in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0825/>

