

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0853

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0853

Active Damping Control Rear Right

C0853 indicates that the active damping control module has detected a fault in the rear right damper circuit, which typically involves an open, short, or performance issue with the solenoid valve or its wiring. The module monitors the damper's electrical current and response, and when the signal falls outside the expected range, it stores this code and may disable adaptive damping for that corner.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent or only affects one corner.
- A noticeably stiffer or softer ride at the rear right corner compared to the other side.
- Reduced handling stability or increased body roll during cornering and evasive maneuvers.
- The adaptive damping system may default to a fixed firm setting, making the ride harsh over bumps.
- In some vehicles, a message such as 'Suspension Fault' or 'Service Ride Control' appears on the dash.

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or corroded wiring harness at the rear right damper, often from road debris or moisture intrusion.
- Failed solenoid valve inside the rear right active damper assembly.
- Loose or corroded electrical connector at the damper or control module.
- Internal short or open circuit in the damper coil.
- Faulty active damping control module, though this is less common than wiring or damper issues.
- Aftermarket or incorrect damper installed that does not meet the system's electrical specifications.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the rear right damper connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins, and repair as needed.
- 2 Measure the resistance of the rear right damper solenoid and compare it to the manufacturer's specification to check for an open or shorted coil.
- 3 Check for continuity and voltage drop on the control circuit from the module to the damper to rule out wiring faults.
- 4 Swap the rear right damper with a known-good unit from the same axle (if accessible) to see if the code follows the damper.
- 5 Use a scan tool to command the damper through its full range and observe current draw and response to confirm the fault.
- 6 If the damper is faulty, replace it with an OEM or equivalent unit that meets the system's electrical requirements.
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to verify the repair and ensure the adaptive damping system functions correctly.

What most technicians overlook on C0853

- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the damper when the real problem is a corroded connector or a broken wire hidden inside the loom near the wheel well.
- The code can be set by a weak battery or charging system issue that causes low voltage to the control module, so always check battery health and grounds first.
- After replacing a damper, some vehicles require a calibration or relearn procedure for the active damping system, which is often skipped and leads to a repeat code.
- Intermittent C0853 codes often appear only after driving over rough roads or in wet conditions, pointing to a wiring issue rather than a failed damper.
- The active damping module may share power or ground with other systems, so a fault elsewhere can trigger this code without any damper problem.

Can I keep driving with C0853?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the suspension defaults to a fixed damping mode, but you should avoid aggressive cornering or heavy loads until the fault is repaired to maintain stability and tire contact.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the active damping system
- Jack and jack stands or a lift
- Trim removal tools for accessing wiring and connectors



Reading C0853

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

Often seen with

C0852 Active Damping Control Rear Left

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Refrigerator Works: The Cooling Cycle](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0853/>

