

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0860

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0860

Trailer Stability Assist Performance

C0860 indicates that the Trailer Stability Assist (TSA) system has detected a performance fault, meaning the onboard computer could not confirm that the system is effectively intervening to stabilize a trailer sway condition. The computer typically sets this code after comparing expected yaw-rate and lateral-acceleration responses during a commanded TSA event and finding they do not match, or after a self-test of the TSA subsystem fails.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Traction control or stability control warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Trailer Stability Assist indicator light on or flashing
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal driving behavior
- Reduced or disabled stability control intervention during trailer towing
- Intermittent warning light that appears during towing or cornering
- Vehicle may feel less stable or exhibit sway when towing if TSA is disabled

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty or contaminated yaw-rate sensor
- 2 Miscalibrated or damaged steering angle sensor
- 3 Wheel speed sensor signal issue (dirty, damaged tone ring, or wiring)
- 4 Trailer module or trailer brake controller communication fault
- 5 ABS/stability control module software or internal fault
- 6 Wiring harness damage or poor connection at the trailer connector
- 7 Low battery voltage or charging system issue affecting module operation



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and retrieve all stored codes, including ABS and trailer module codes, to establish a complete fault picture
- 2 Inspect and clean the trailer connector and wiring for corrosion or damage, and verify trailer lighting functions
- 3 Check battery voltage and charging system output to rule out low-voltage-induced false codes
- 4 Inspect wheel speed sensors and tone rings for debris, damage, or incorrect air gap
- 5 Perform a steering angle sensor calibration and yaw-rate sensor calibration if supported by the scan tool
- 6 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the ABS/stability control module
- 7 If all external checks pass, perform pinpoint tests on the yaw-rate sensor and its wiring per the manufacturer's diagnostic procedure

Trailer Stability Assist faults often misdiagnosed

- A weak or failing battery is a common cause of phantom TSA codes because the stability control module may not initialize correctly during low-voltage cranking.
Aftermarket trailer wiring or improper trailer brake controller installation frequently disrupts the CAN bus or trailer module communication, triggering C0860 without any hard failure.
- The yaw-rate sensor is sensitive to mounting position and contamination; a sensor that was removed and reinstalled without calibration can set this code even if the part is good.
- C0860 can be set by a mismatched or missing trailer module configuration, especially after a battery replacement or module swap, so checking software configuration is essential before parts replacement.
A steering angle sensor that is off-center due to an alignment or steering wheel removal can cause the TSA system to misjudge driver intent and log a performance code.

Can I keep driving with C0860?

You can generally continue driving without a trailer, but avoid towing until the fault is repaired because Trailer Stability Assist may not intervene to control sway. If the warning light is accompanied by reduced power or other stability control warnings, have the vehicle inspected promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with ABS/stability control and trailer module capability
- Digital multimeter for voltage and continuity checks
- Wiring diagram and manufacturer service information
- Trailer connector test tool or light board
- Steering angle sensor calibration tool (if required)



Reading C0860

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

Often seen with

C0051 Front Left ABS Solenoid 1 Circuit Malfunction · **C0561** ABS Disabled Warning Indicator Request · **C0710** Steering Position Signal Malfunction · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0122** Lost Communication With Vehicle Dynamics Control 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/c0860/>

