

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0905

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0905

TPMS Sensor 3 Battery Low

C0905 means the tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) has detected that the battery inside the sensor mounted in one specific wheel (identified as sensor 3) is running low on voltage. The computer is not reporting a flat tire or a failed sensor yet, but it is warning that the sensor's internal power source is nearing the end of its service life.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- Tire pressure warning light illuminated on the dashboard, often flashing for about a minute then staying solid
- A message on the driver information display indicating low battery in a tire sensor
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with tire pressures reading normally on vehicles that display individual pressures
- Intermittent loss of one tire pressure reading on the dash display, especially in cold weather
- The TPMS light may come on only during cold starts and go out after driving
- No change in vehicle handling or tire inflation unless a separate leak exists

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 The battery inside TPMS sensor 3 has reached the end of its normal service life, typically after 7 to 10 years
- 2 Cold ambient temperatures temporarily dropping the sensor battery voltage below the low threshold
- 3 A failing sensor 3 that is drawing excessive current or has an internal circuit fault
- 4 Water or moisture intrusion into sensor 3 causing corrosion and battery drain
- 5 Physical damage to sensor 3 from road debris, potholes, or tire mounting work
- 6 A weak or failing vehicle battery or charging system causing low system voltage that the sensor interprets as its own low battery
- 7 Radio frequency interference or a weak signal from sensor 3 that the receiver misinterprets as low battery



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a TPMS-capable scan tool and confirm which wheel is designated as sensor 3, then check that tire's actual pressure with a gauge
- 2 Inspect sensor 3 for physical damage, corrosion, or a loose valve stem and compare its battery voltage reading to the other sensors if the tool supports it
- 3 Test the vehicle battery and charging system to rule out low system voltage as the cause of the low battery report
- 4 Clear the code and drive the vehicle to see if the code returns immediately or only after a cold soak, which helps confirm a genuinely weak sensor battery
- 5 Replace TPMS sensor 3 with a correct-frequency sensor for the vehicle, then perform the required relearn or registration procedure with a TPMS tool
- 6 After replacement, verify that all four sensor IDs are registered and that live pressure and battery status readings are normal for sensor 3
- 7 If the code persists after replacement, check the TPMS receiver or antenna connections and inspect for radio frequency interference sources

What a low TPMS battery really means

- A low battery code is a predictive warning, not a failure code, so the sensor may continue transmitting for weeks or months before it stops reporting entirely.
- Cold weather is the most common trigger for a low battery code because battery voltage drops with temperature, and the code often clears itself once the vehicle warms up.
- Many vehicles do not display individual sensor status, so a scan tool with live TPMS data is the only way to confirm which sensor is actually weak.
- Replacing just the one flagged sensor is acceptable, but the remaining sensors are usually the same age and will likely set similar codes soon after.
- A weak vehicle battery or a failing alternator can cause multiple TPMS low battery codes at once, so always check system voltage before condemning sensors.

Can I keep driving with C0905?

The vehicle is safe to drive because the tire pressure monitoring system is still functioning and the tire itself is not deflated. Plan to replace the affected sensor at your next service visit, and be aware that the warning light may become permanent once the battery finally fails.



Tools that help

- TPMS-capable scan tool
- Tire pressure gauge
- TPMS relearn or activation tool
- Digital multimeter
- Battery tester
- Tire valve core tool

Reading C0905

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

Often seen with

C0900 TPMS Sensor 1 Battery · **C0901** TPMS Sensor 1 Position Performance · **C0902** TPMS Sensor 2 Battery · **C0903** TPMS Sensor 2 Position Performance

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Engine Cooling System Trainer: How Engines Stay Cool](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0905/>

