

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0912

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0912

TPMS Initiator Front Circuit Malfunction

C0912 indicates that the tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) initiator circuit for the front tires has a malfunction, meaning the control module cannot properly trigger the initiators that wake up or configure the front wheel sensors. The computer detects an open, short, or abnormal voltage on the initiator circuit, which prevents the front sensors from being initialized or read correctly.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- TPMS warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Tire pressure readings for the front tires may be missing or erratic on vehicles with individual pressure displays
- Inability to relearn or reset the TPMS after a tire rotation or sensor replacement
- Intermittent TPMS light that comes and goes with temperature changes or vibration
- Other driver aids that rely on wheel speed may be unaffected, but some vehicles may disable related features

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or corroded wiring in the front initiator circuit, often from road debris or chafing
- Failed front TPMS initiator (antenna) itself
- Loose or corroded electrical connector at the initiator or TPMS module
- Blown fuse or poor ground connection for the initiator circuit
- Faulty TPMS control module (less common)
- Aftermarket accessories or improper previous repairs disturbing the circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- Inspect the front initiator wiring and connectors for visible damage, corrosion, or looseness
- Check the TPMS fuse and ground connections related to the initiator circuit
- Measure resistance and voltage on the initiator circuit to compare with manufacturer specifications
- Test the front initiator with a known-good unit or signal tester if accessible
- Perform a TPMS relearn procedure after any repair to verify the fix
- If wiring and initiator are good, diagnose the TPMS module for internal faults
- Clear the code and road-test to confirm the warning light stays off



Initiator circuit faults often misdiagnosed

- A weak or failing front wheel sensor can sometimes set an initiator circuit code because the module cannot complete the initialization handshake, leading to unnecessary initiator replacement.
- Aftermarket wheels or tires that block the initiator signal can trigger this code even when all electrical components are healthy.
- The initiator circuit is often shared with other functions, so a fault elsewhere in the network can cause a false C0912.
- Some vehicles require a specific sequence of ignition cycles and tool commands to properly relearn the initiators, and skipping steps can leave the code stored.
- Corrosion inside a connector that looks fine externally is a common cause, especially in regions with road salt.

Can I keep driving with C0912?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the TPMS warning is informational and does not affect braking or steering, but you should check tire pressures manually until the fault is repaired. Avoid ignoring the light, as you lose the automatic low-pressure warning that prevents tire damage and improves fuel economy.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with TPMS capabilities
- Digital multimeter
- TPMS relearn tool or activation tool
- Vehicle service information for wiring diagrams and specifications
- Basic hand tools for trim and connector access

Reading C0912

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

Often seen with

C0750 Cruise Control Brake Switch · **C0900** TPMS Sensor 1 Battery



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an EGR Valve Works: Exhaust Gas Recirculation](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0912/>

