

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P00FF

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P00FF

Body Control Module Requested MIL Illumination

P00FF is a generic OBD-II code that indicates the Body Control Module (BCM) has sent a request to the Engine Control Module (ECM) or Powertrain Control Module (PCM) to illuminate the Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL), commonly known as the check engine light. The ECM/PCM sets this code when it receives a valid request from the BCM over the vehicle's communication network, often because the BCM has detected a fault in a system it monitors that affects emissions or safety.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Professional	Fuel and air metering and auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light is illuminated on the dashboard, often with no other warning lights.
- No noticeable performance issues; the vehicle may drive normally.
- Other warning lights (e.g., ABS, airbag, or stability control) may be on if the BCM fault affects multiple systems.
- Intermittent check engine light that comes and goes, especially in wet or humid conditions.
- Electrical accessories controlled by the BCM (lights, wipers, locks) may malfunction.
- The vehicle may fail an emissions inspection due to the illuminated MIL.

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty Body Control Module (BCM) software or internal failure causing it to send a false MIL request.
- Communication network issues (CAN bus) between the BCM and ECM/PCM, such as damaged wiring or poor connections.
- Low battery voltage or poor charging system performance causing modules to behave erratically.
- Water intrusion or corrosion in the BCM connectors or harness, leading to short circuits.
- Aftermarket accessories (e.g., remote starters, alarms) improperly wired into the BCM circuit.
- A separate fault in a system monitored by the BCM (e.g., lighting, security) that triggers the MIL request as a precaution.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a full scan of all modules to retrieve all stored codes and freeze-frame data, focusing on BCM and ECM/PCM codes.
- 2 Check battery voltage and charging system; load-test the battery and inspect alternator output.
- 3 Inspect BCM connectors and wiring for corrosion, water damage, or loose pins; clean and repair as needed.
- 4 Verify communication bus integrity with a digital multimeter or oscilloscope; check for shorts or opens in CAN lines.
- 5 Reprogram or update the BCM software if a known issue exists, following manufacturer procedures.
- 6 If the BCM is confirmed faulty, replace and program it according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 7 Clear codes and perform a road test to verify the MIL no longer illuminates and no codes return.

When the BCM Triggers the Check Engine Light

- P00FF is often a secondary code; always check for other BCM or communication codes that may point to the root cause.
A weak battery can cause the BCM to send spurious MIL requests without setting any BCM codes, so load-testing is crucial.
- Aftermarket electronics wired into the BCM circuit frequently cause this code; inspect for non-factory wiring before condemning the module.
- The code does not necessarily mean the BCM is defective; it may be reacting to a fault in another system it monitors, such as lighting or security.
On some vehicles, a faulty ignition switch or ground connection can mimic BCM failure and set P00FF.

Can I keep driving with P00FF?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive if it runs normally, but the illuminated MIL may cause an emissions test failure. Avoid ignoring the light for extended periods, as the underlying BCM fault could affect other electrical systems or safety features.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and module scanning capability
- Digital multimeter
- Oscilloscope for CAN bus analysis
- Battery load tester
- Manufacturer-specific diagnostic software



Reading P00FF

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 0** Fuel and air metering and auxiliary emission controls.
- FF** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0562 System Voltage Low · **U0001** Loss of Bus Communication · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Disc Brake Trainer: How Car Brakes Stop a Wheel](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p00ff/>

