

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P03B5

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P03B5

Cylinder 4 Pressure Sensor Circuit Low

P03B5 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a low-voltage signal from the cylinder 4 pressure sensor circuit, which is used to monitor combustion pressure for that specific cylinder. The PCM expects the sensor to report a voltage within a calibrated range, and a sustained low reading triggers this code because the signal is below the minimum threshold.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Ignition system and misfire

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- Rough idle or misfire-like shudder, especially when the engine is cold or under light load.
- Reduced engine performance or hesitation during acceleration due to inaccurate cylinder pressure feedback.
- Poor fuel economy as the PCM may adjust fueling based on faulty pressure data.
- In rare cases, the engine may enter limp mode or exhibit hard starting if the fault affects multiple cylinders.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty cylinder 4 pressure sensor or its internal circuitry.
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness connector at the sensor.
- 3 Open or shorted signal wire between the sensor and the PCM.
- 4 Poor ground connection for the sensor circuit.
- 5 PCM internal fault or software issue affecting the pressure sensor input.
- 6 Mechanical issue such as a loose sensor installation or carbon buildup on the sensor tip.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use an OBD-II scanner to verify the code and check for related pending or history codes.
- 2 Inspect the cylinder 4 pressure sensor connector and wiring for damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 3 Measure the sensor reference voltage and ground at the connector with a digital multimeter; compare to manufacturer specifications.
- 4 Perform a resistance or voltage drop test on the signal wire from the sensor to the PCM to check for opens or shorts.
- 5 If wiring and connections are good, test the sensor itself with a known-good unit or follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow chart.
- 6 Replace the cylinder 4 pressure sensor if it fails testing, then clear codes and verify the repair with a test drive.
- 7 If the code persists after sensor replacement, diagnose the PCM and its software for faults or recalibration needs.

Cylinder pressure sensor faults often misdiagnosed

- A low voltage reading can be caused by a simple loose connector that intermittently loses contact, so always wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.
- Some technicians replace the pressure sensor when the real problem is a chafed wire hidden inside the loom, so a thorough visual and continuity check is essential.
- This code can set alongside misfire codes for cylinder 4, but the misfire may be a symptom of the pressure sensor fault rather than a separate ignition issue.
- On engines with multiple pressure sensors, a shared ground or reference voltage fault can trigger low-voltage codes for several cylinders, so check for companion codes.
- After repairs, the PCM may need to relearn the pressure sensor offset; failing to perform this step can cause the code to return immediately.

Can I keep driving with P03B5?

You can generally continue driving with this code, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy loads until it is diagnosed, as inaccurate pressure data may affect engine management and fuel economy. If the engine runs rough or enters limp mode, seek service promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Basic hand tools for connector and sensor access
- Manufacturer-specific diagnostic software (if available)



Reading P03B5

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 3** Ignition system and misfire.
- B5** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0304 Cylinder 4 Misfire Detected · **P03B1** Cylinder 3 Pressure Variation High · **P03B2** Cylinder 3 Combustion Performance · **P03B3** Cylinder 4 Pressure Sensor Circuit · **P03B4** Cylinder 4 Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Performance

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p03b5/>

