

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P03C8

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P03C8

Cylinder 6 Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Performance

P03C8 indicates that the powertrain control module has detected an out-of-range or erratic signal from the cylinder 6 pressure sensor circuit, which is used to monitor combustion pressure for that specific cylinder. The computer compares the sensor's voltage or signal pattern against expected values and flags the code when performance falls outside the calibrated range.

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 that may be intermittent
- Reduced engine power or hesitation during acceleration
- Poor fuel economy or increased emissions
- In rare cases, a no-start condition if the sensor signal is used for fuel or timing calculations
- Audible pinging or knocking under load if the pressure signal is used for knock control

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty cylinder 6 pressure sensor
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring or connector at the sensor
- 3 Open or short circuit in the sensor signal or reference voltage circuit
- 4 Poor electrical ground for the sensor circuit
- 5 Mechanical issue such as a loose sensor or carbon buildup affecting sensor reading
- 6 PCM software calibration issue or internal fault (less common)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of the sensor, connector, and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 2 Check for technical service bulletins or software updates related to the code
- 3 Measure sensor resistance and compare to manufacturer specifications
- 4 Back-probe the sensor connector to check reference voltage, signal voltage, and ground integrity
- 5 Inspect the sensor mounting and clean any carbon deposits if accessible
- 6 Swap the cylinder 6 pressure sensor with a known-good unit from another cylinder to see if the code follows
- 7 If all electrical and mechanical checks pass, diagnose the PCM for internal faults



Cylinder pressure sensor circuit pitfalls

- A loose or backed-out sensor can cause an erratic signal that mimics an electrical fault, so always check mounting torque before replacing parts.
- The code can be set by a momentary glitch that does not affect driveability, so clearing the code and test-driving may reveal it as a non-recurring event.
- Corrosion inside the connector pins is a frequent cause that visual inspection alone may miss; a voltage drop test under load is more reliable.
- On some engines, the cylinder pressure sensor shares a ground with other sensors, so a bad ground elsewhere can set this code without any fault in the sensor itself.
- Replacing the sensor without checking the wiring harness for chafing or heat damage often leads to a repeat failure.

Can I keep driving with P03C8?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with this code if no severe misfire or power loss is present, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy loads until diagnosed. Prolonged driving with a faulty pressure sensor can lead to increased emissions or catalytic converter damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Back-probe kit
- Socket set and torque wrench
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle

Reading P03C8

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.
C8	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0171 System Too Lean (Bank 1) · **P0306** Cylinder 6 Misfire Detected · **P0335** Crankshaft Position Sensor A Circuit Malfunction · **P03C7** Cylinder 6 Pressure Sensor Circuit · **P03C9** Cylinder 6 Pressure Sensor Circuit Low



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Catalytic Converter Works: 3D Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p03c8/>

