

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P055C

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

P055C

Engine Oil Pressure Sensor/Switch B Low

P055C indicates that the engine control module has detected a low signal from the engine oil pressure sensor or switch designated as 'B', which is typically the second sensor in a multi-sensor system. The computer compares the reported oil pressure against expected values for the current engine speed and temperature, and it sets this code when the signal falls below the low threshold.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Oil pressure warning light or message on the dashboard
- Gauge showing low or zero oil pressure, sometimes fluctuating
- Audible chime or buzzer warning
- Engine may enter reduced power or limp mode
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- In severe cases, engine knocking or ticking if actual oil pressure is low

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty oil pressure sensor 'B' (internal failure or contaminated sensing element)
- Low engine oil level or degraded oil
- Wiring damage (open, short, or chafed harness) between sensor and ECM
- Corroded or loose electrical connector at the sensor
- Clogged oil passage or restricted oil filter
- Oil pump wear or failure (less common)
- ECM software or internal fault (rare)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check engine oil level and condition; top up or change oil if needed
- 2 Inspect sensor 'B' connector and wiring for damage or corrosion; clean and secure
- 3 Use a scan tool to view live oil pressure data and compare with a mechanical gauge
- 4 Test the sensor 'B' signal circuit for continuity and short to ground
- 5 Replace the oil pressure sensor 'B' if faulty
- 6 Check oil pressure with a mechanical gauge to verify actual pressure; if low, inspect oil pump and passages
- 7 Clear codes and verify repair with a test drive

What most technicians overlook with P055C

- A low oil pressure reading from sensor 'B' often reflects a failing sensor rather than actual low oil pressure, so always verify with a mechanical gauge before condemning the engine.
- On vehicles with two oil pressure sensors, sensor 'B' may monitor a different oil gallery or provide a redundant signal, and its failure can set this code without any drivability symptoms.
- Wiring harness chafing near hot exhaust components or sharp edges is a common cause that is frequently missed during visual inspection.
- After an oil change, air pockets or debris can temporarily disrupt sensor 'B' readings and set a false code; clearing it and rechecking after a short drive may resolve it.
- The ECM may use sensor 'B' for variable valve timing or cylinder deactivation logic, so a low signal can cause subtle performance issues beyond a warning light.

Can I keep driving with P055C?

If the oil pressure warning light is on and accompanied by engine noise, stop driving immediately to avoid catastrophic damage. If only the code is stored with no noise or performance change, you may drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid high speeds and heavy loads.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Mechanical oil pressure gauge
- Socket set and wrench set
- Electrical contact cleaner
- Vehicle service information (wiring diagrams)



Reading P055C

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
5	Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs.
5C	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0520 Engine Oil Pressure Sensor/Switch Circuit Malfunction · **P0521** Engine Oil Pressure Sensor/Switch Circuit Range/Performance · **P0522** Engine Oil Pressure Sensor/Switch Circuit Low Voltage · **P055B** Engine Oil Pressure Sensor/Switch B Range/Performance · **P055D** Engine Oil Pressure Sensor/Switch B High

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Push-Button Start Works: Keyless Ignition](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p055c/>

