

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P05B9

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

## P05B9

### Restraint Deployment Signal Circuit Low

P05B9 indicates that the restraint control module has detected an abnormally low voltage on the deployment signal circuit, which is the command line used to trigger airbags and pretensioners during a crash. The module monitors this circuit continuously and sets the code when the signal voltage falls below the expected threshold, often due to a short to ground or a faulty connection.

|            |                     |          |                |                                                  |
|------------|---------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| SYSTEM     | CODE TYPE           | SEVERITY | FIX DIFFICULTY | AREA                                             |
| Powertrain | Generic (all makes) | High     | Professional   | Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs |

### Symptoms you may notice

- Airbag warning light illuminated on the instrument cluster
- Supplemental restraint system (SRS) warning message displayed on the driver information center
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with all vehicle systems operating normally
- Possible intermittent warning light if the fault is a loose connection or chafed wire
- In some vehicles, other restraint-related functions such as seatbelt reminders may be disabled

### Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or chafed wiring in the deployment signal circuit, causing a short to ground
- Corroded or loose electrical connector at the restraint control module or at a sensor/squib
- Faulty clock spring (spiral cable) in the steering wheel, which can short the deployment circuit
- Internal short in the restraint control module
- Water intrusion or contamination in a connector or module
- Aftermarket accessories or improper previous repairs tapping into the SRS wiring



## How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all stored codes and freeze-frame data, then clear codes and verify whether P05B9 returns immediately or after a test drive.
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors for the restraint system, looking for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins, especially around the steering column and under seats.
- 3 Disconnect the battery and wait for the recommended time, then use a digital multimeter to check resistance and voltage on the deployment signal circuit to ground, comparing to manufacturer specifications.
- 4 If the circuit tests normal, substitute a known-good restraint control module or use a diagnostic tester to isolate whether the module is falsely setting the code.
- 5 Repair or replace any damaged wiring, connectors, or the clock spring as needed, following the manufacturer's service procedures.
- 6 After repairs, clear codes and perform a system verification with a scan tool to confirm the code does not return and all restraint functions are operational.

## Deployment circuit faults often misdiagnosed

- A low deployment signal can be caused by a short to ground anywhere along the circuit, not just at the module, so a thorough wire trace is essential before replacing parts.
- The clock spring is a common failure point because it flexes with every steering wheel turn, and a short there can set this code without any other symptoms.
- Some technicians replace the restraint control module prematurely when the real issue is a corroded connector under a seat or in the kick panel.
- Aftermarket alarms or remote starters that tap into SRS wiring can introduce low-voltage faults that mimic a failed module.
- The code may be stored as history after a low battery or jump-start event, so always check if it is current or history before diagnosing.

## Can I keep driving with P05B9?

Because this fault can disable airbag deployment in a crash, the vehicle should not be driven until the restraint system is repaired and the warning light is off. Avoid any impact to the steering wheel or dash area, and do not attempt to clear the code without fixing the underlying issue.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram and service information
- Trim removal tools
- Battery disconnect tool



## Reading P05B9

- 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.
- B9** The exact fault within that area.

## Often seen with

**B0001** Driver Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control Circuit · **B0010** Driver Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control Circuit · **P05B8** Restraint Deployment Signal Circuit/Open · **P05BA** Restraint Deployment Signal Circuit High · **U0151** Lost Communication With Restraints Control Module

## See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Airbags Work: A 50 km/h Crash in Slow Motion](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p05b9/>

