

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P05BA

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P05BA

Restraint Deployment Signal Circuit High

P05BA indicates that the restraint control module has detected an abnormally high voltage on the deployment signal circuit, which is the command line used to trigger airbags or seat belt pretensioners. The computer expects a specific voltage range on this circuit and flags the code when the signal exceeds that range, often due to a short to voltage or an open circuit.

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
- Seat belt pretensioner may not deploy in a collision
- Airbag may fail to deploy when needed
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Possible intermittent warning light if the fault is a loose connection

Common causes, most likely first

- Short to voltage on the deployment signal circuit
- Open circuit or high resistance in the deployment signal wiring
- Faulty clock spring in the steering wheel
- Damaged or corroded connector at the airbag or pretensioner
- Internal fault in the restraint control module
- Aftermarket accessories improperly wired into the restraint system

How to diagnose and fix it

- Inspect the restraint system wiring and connectors for damage or corrosion
- Check for aftermarket accessories tapped into the restraint circuit
- Measure resistance and voltage on the deployment signal circuit with a multimeter
- Test the clock spring for continuity and shorts
- Disconnect and inspect the airbag and pretensioner connectors
- Replace the faulty component (clock spring, wiring, or module) as needed
- Clear the code and verify the repair with a scan tool



Before you replace the airbag module

- A common cause of this code is a short to voltage from an aftermarket accessory, such as a dash camera or phone charger, wired into the restraint circuit.
- The code can be set by a faulty clock spring even if the horn and cruise control work normally, because the deployment circuit is a separate set of wires.
- Always disable the supplemental restraint system (SRS) by disconnecting the battery and waiting before working on any airbag circuit to avoid accidental deployment.
- A high voltage on the deployment signal circuit does not always mean the airbag itself is defective; the fault often lies in the wiring or connectors.
- Some vehicles require a scan tool to clear the code after repair, and the light may stay on until the module is reinitialized.

Can I keep driving with P05BA?

It is not safe to drive with this code because the airbags and pretensioners may not deploy in a crash. Have the vehicle diagnosed and repaired by a qualified technician before driving, and avoid any impact to the steering wheel or dash area.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with SRS capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the restraint system
- Trim removal tools
- Battery disconnect tool

Reading P05BA

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.
BA	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 · **P05B9** Restraint Deployment Signal Circuit Low · **P05BB** Restraints Deployed · **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/p05ba/>

