

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P05BB

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P05BB

Restraints Deployed

P05BB is a generic body code indicating that the supplemental restraint system (SRS) has recorded a deployment event, meaning one or more airbags or seat belt pretensioners have fired. The restraint control module (RCM) sets this code when its internal crash data confirms a deployment command was issued and executed, and it often latches the code permanently until the module is replaced or professionally reset.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The airbag warning light stays illuminated on the instrument cluster after a collision or deployment event.
- Visible damage such as a torn steering wheel cover, hanging headliner, or deployed side curtain airbag.
- Seat belt pretensioners may be locked or the belts may not retract normally after firing.
- The restraint system may disable all remaining airbags as a precaution, so no further protection is available.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the deployment occurred previously and the vehicle was repaired cosmetically.

Common causes, most likely first

- A prior collision or impact event that commanded airbag or pretensioner deployment.
- A restraint control module that has latched the deployment record and requires replacement or reset.
- Deployed airbag modules or pretensioners that were never replaced after the event.
- Wiring damage or a short in the deployment circuit that mimicked a crash signal to the module.
- A faulty crash sensor or restraint control module that falsely recorded a deployment.
- Water intrusion or corrosion in the SRS harness causing a deployment signal.
- Aftermarket or improper repair practices that left the system in a deployed state.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules with a capable scan tool to confirm P05BB is current and check for related SRS codes.
- 2 Inspect the vehicle for visible deployment damage and verify which airbags and pretensioners fired.
- 3 Check the restraint control module for crash data and determine whether it can be reset or must be replaced.
- 4 Test the SRS wiring and connectors for shorts, corrosion, or impact damage before replacing parts.
- 5 Replace all deployed airbags, pretensioners, and the restraint control module as required by the manufacturer.
- 6 Clear codes and perform the required SRS calibration or initialization procedure with a factory-level scan tool.
- 7 Verify the airbag warning light extinguishes and all restraint circuits pass a final system test.

What P05BB really means after a crash

- P05BB is a deployment record, not a live sensor fault, so clearing the code without replacing deployed components will not restore the system.
- Many restraint control modules latch this code permanently and cannot be cleared with a standard scan tool; a module reset or replacement is often required.
- A deployment code can be set by a side impact or rollover event that the driver did not perceive as severe, so always check all airbag and pretensioner locations.
- Some vehicles set P05BB when the seat belt pretensioner fires alone, even if no airbag deployed, which is easily missed during a visual inspection.
- Never probe SRS connectors with a test light or multimeter unless the system is deactivated per manufacturer procedure, because accidental deployment is a serious risk.

Can I keep driving with P05BB?

Do not drive the vehicle until the restraint system has been inspected and repaired, because deployed airbags and pretensioners leave occupants unprotected in a subsequent collision. If the vehicle must be moved, drive it only a short distance at low speed to a safe repair location and avoid any situation where airbag protection would be needed.

Tools that help

- Factory-level or enhanced scan tool with SRS capabilities
- Digital multimeter with SRS-safe test leads
- Manufacturer service information for SRS deactivation and calibration
- Torque wrench for airbag and pretensioner fasteners
- Inspection mirror and trim removal tools



Reading P05BB

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

Often seen with

B0001 Driver Frontal Stage 1 Deployment Control Circuit · **B0012** Right Front/Passenger Frontal Stage 2 Deployment Control · **B0051** Driver Frontal Deployment Control Open · **P05BC** Stop-Start Mode Switch Circuit/Open · **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/p05bb/>

