



P05BC

Stop-Start Mode Switch Circuit/Open

P05BC indicates that the engine control module (ECM) or body control module (BCM) has detected an open circuit in the stop-start mode switch circuit, which is the driver-operated button that enables or disables the automatic engine stop-start feature. The computer monitors the switch signal and expects a specific voltage when the button is pressed or released; an open circuit means the signal is missing or out of range, so the module sets this code and typically disables the stop-start function.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The stop-start system does not activate when the vehicle is stationary, so the engine never shuts off automatically.
- The stop-start indicator light on the switch may fail to illuminate or may flash continuously.
- A warning message such as 'Stop-Start System Fault' or 'Auto Start-Stop Unavailable' appears on the dashboard.
- The switch may feel loose, sticky, or unresponsive when pressed, with no click or tactile feedback.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the driver never uses the stop-start feature.
- In some vehicles, other functions tied to the same switch panel (such as traction control or parking sensors) may also become inoperative.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Broken or frayed wires in the harness that connects the stop-start switch to the control module, often due to flexing at the steering column or center console.
- 2 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the switch or at the module, causing high resistance or an intermittent open.
- 3 Failed stop-start mode switch itself, where internal contacts wear out or the switch mechanism breaks.
- 4 Open circuit in the ground circuit for the switch, which prevents the module from reading the switch state.
- 5 Damage to the switch circuit from liquid spills, especially on center-console-mounted switches.
- 6 Faulty control module (ECM or BCM) that incorrectly interprets a good switch signal as an open circuit, though this is rare.
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or improper wiring repairs that tap into the switch circuit and introduce an open or short.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related codes in the stop-start system before replacing parts.
- 2 Inspect the stop-start switch connector and harness for visible damage, corrosion, or loose pins, and clean or repair as needed.
- 3 Use a digital multimeter to check for continuity and voltage on the switch circuit with the key on, comparing readings to the manufacturer's specifications.
- 4 Test the switch itself by checking resistance across its terminals in both pressed and released positions, and replace the switch if it does not change state.
- 5 Check the ground circuit for the switch using a voltage drop test to confirm it is not open or excessively resistive.
- 6 If the circuit and switch test good, inspect the control module connector and wiring for an open circuit, and repair any damaged wires.
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to confirm the stop-start system operates correctly and the code does not return.

Common Misdiagnosis Traps for P05BC

- A weak or failing 12-volt battery often causes stop-start system faults that mimic a switch circuit problem, so always load-test the battery before condemning the switch.
- The stop-start mode switch is frequently part of a multi-function panel, and a failure in another button on the same panel can set this code due to shared wiring or a common ground.
- Intermittent open circuits caused by chafed wires behind the dashboard or center console are common and may not show up during a simple continuity test; wiggle-test the harness while monitoring the switch signal.
- Some vehicles require the stop-start system to be initialized or calibrated with a scan tool after switch replacement, and skipping this step can leave the code stored even with a good switch.
- This code does not always mean the switch is bad; a loose battery terminal or a poor chassis ground can create enough voltage drop to set an open-circuit code in the switch circuit.

Can I keep driving with P05BC?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the stop-start feature is disabled, but you should avoid relying on the system and address the fault when convenient. Prolonged driving with an open circuit is not harmful, but if the switch is part of a panel that controls other functions, those may also be affected.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wire piercing probes or back-probe kit
- Trim removal tools
- Electrical contact cleaner
- Vehicle-specific wiring diagram

Reading P05BC

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.
BC	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P05B9 Restraint Deployment Signal Circuit Low · **P05BA** Restraint Deployment Signal Circuit High · **P05BB** Restraints Deployed · **P05BD** Stop-Start Mode Switch Circuit Range/Performance · **P05BE** Stop-Start Mode Switch Circuit Low

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Regenerative Braking Works in Electric Cars](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p05bc/>

