

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P05D4

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P05D4

Driver Mode Select Switch B Circuit

P05D4 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an abnormal condition in the electrical circuit for Driver Mode Select Switch B, which is typically a button or switch used to choose between different driving modes such as Eco, Sport, or Snow. The PCM monitors the voltage or signal on the circuit and sets this code when the signal falls outside the expected range for the current switch state, indicating an open, short, or implausible signal.

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 check engine light or service engine soon light is illuminated.
- The driver may be unable to change driving modes, or the mode may not match the selected setting.
- The mode select switch may feel unresponsive or require multiple presses to register.
- Other dashboard warnings may appear if the mode affects stability or traction systems.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the default mode is still functional.
- In some vehicles, the transmission may default to a single mode, reducing performance or fuel economy.

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty driver mode select switch B, such as worn contacts or internal failure.
- Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the switch or PCM.
- Open circuit in the signal or ground wire between the switch and the PCM.
- Short to ground or short to voltage on the signal circuit.
- PCM software issue or internal fault in the switch input circuit.
- Aftermarket accessories or improper wiring repairs interfering with the circuit.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related codes in other modules.
- 2 Inspect the switch and connector for physical damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 3 Test the switch operation using a multimeter to confirm continuity or voltage changes when pressed.
- 4 Check the wiring harness for opens, shorts, or chafing between the switch and PCM.
- 5 If the switch and wiring test good, check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the PCM.
- 6 Replace the faulty switch if it fails testing, then clear codes and verify the repair.
- 7 If the circuit tests good but the code persists, diagnose the PCM or seek dealer-level programming.

Mode switch faults that mislead diagnosis

- A common mistake is replacing the switch without testing the circuit, but a chafed wire under the console or a corroded connector often causes the same code.
- The code can set intermittently if the switch is only occasionally failing, so a wiggle test of the harness while monitoring live data is valuable.
- On some vehicles, the mode select switch shares a ground with other dashboard switches, so a bad ground can set multiple codes including this one.
- Aftermarket remote starters or alarm systems that tap into the mode switch wiring can introduce resistance or shorts that trigger P05D4.
- The PCM may default to a limp mode for the switch circuit, so the vehicle might drive normally but without mode selection, leading owners to ignore the light.

Can I keep driving with P05D4?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with this code because it affects only the mode selection feature and does not impair basic operation. Avoid towing heavy loads or driving in severe conditions if the default mode is not suitable, and have the circuit inspected soon to prevent misdiagnosis of other systems.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Trim removal tools
- Test light or jumper wires



Reading P05D4

- 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.
- D4** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P05D3 Driver Mode Select Switch A Range/Performance · **P05D5** Driver Mode Select Switch B Circuit Low · **P05D6** Driver Mode Select Switch B Circuit High · **P0700** Transmission Control System Malfunction · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Padlock Works: Pin Tumbler Lock in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p05d4/>

