



P05D5

Driver Mode Select Switch B Circuit Low

P05D5 indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a low-voltage condition on the signal circuit for Driver Mode Select Switch B, which is the input used to choose a driving mode such as sport, eco, or snow. The computer expects a specific voltage range on that circuit and sets the code when the signal stays below the low threshold for longer than the calibrated time.

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 driver mode selector may not change modes when pressed, or the selected mode may not display on the instrument cluster.
- The vehicle may default to a single driving mode, often the normal or comfort setting, regardless of switch input.
- A warning light or message such as 'Drive Mode Unavailable' may appear on the dash.
- Other driver-selectable functions that share the switch panel, such as traction control or hill descent, may become inoperative.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the default mode is acceptable to the driver.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A faulty Driver Mode Select Switch B, where the internal contacts have worn or become contaminated and no longer pull the signal circuit to the correct voltage.
- 2 A short to ground in the signal wire between the switch and the control module, often caused by chafed insulation at a door sill, console, or under-dash routing point.
- 3 Corroded or loose terminals at the switch connector or at the control module connector, creating high resistance that pulls the signal low.
- 4 Water intrusion into the switch assembly or its connector, common when the switch is mounted in a center console or lower dash area exposed to spills or leaks.
- 5 A defective control module that misinterprets a correct signal, though this is the least likely cause and should only be suspected after all circuit tests pass.
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or wiring repairs that tapped into the signal circuit and introduced an unintended ground path.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use a scan tool to read the live data for the driver mode switch input and confirm the signal stays low when the switch is pressed and released.
- 2 Inspect the switch connector and the control module connector for corrosion, loose pins, or pushed-out terminals, and clean or repair as needed.
- 3 Disconnect the switch and measure resistance across the switch contacts in each position; compare to the manufacturer's specification and replace the switch if it is out of range.
- 4 With the switch disconnected and the control module connected, measure voltage on the signal circuit at the switch connector; a constant low reading indicates a short to ground in the harness.
- 5 Isolate the harness by disconnecting the control module and checking continuity from the signal wire to ground; repair any chafed or shorted wire found along the routing.
- 6 If the circuit tests good and the switch is known-good, substitute a known-good control module only after confirming power and ground to the module are correct.
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test in each selectable mode to verify the repair and ensure the code does not return.

Why mode switches fail without warning

- A driver mode switch can test fine with a multimeter at rest but still set P05D5 intermittently when temperature or vibration changes contact resistance inside the switch.
- The signal circuit for Driver Mode Select Switch B often shares a ground reference with other console switches, so a bad ground on a neighbouring switch can pull this circuit low and set the code.
- Aftermarket floor mats, phone mounts, or console trim removed during stereo work can pinch the switch harness and create a short to ground that only appears when the console is reassembled.
- P05D5 does not always mean the switch itself is bad; a control module with a contaminated internal ground plane can read a good signal as low, so circuit testing must precede module replacement.
- Some vehicles use a multiplexed switch panel where several mode buttons share one signal wire, and a stuck button for a different function can drag the shared signal low and set this code.

Can I keep driving with P05D5?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the control module defaults to a normal driving mode, but avoid relying on sport or eco settings until the fault is repaired. If the warning light is accompanied by reduced power or a limp mode, have the vehicle checked promptly rather than continuing to drive.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the driver mode switch circuit
- Trim removal tools
- Contact cleaner and dielectric grease

Reading P05D5

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.
D5	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P05D4 Driver Mode Select Switch B Circuit · **P05D6** Driver Mode Select Switch B Circuit High · **P05D7** Driver Mode Select Switch B Range/Performance · **P05D8** PCV Regulator Valve Control Circuit/Open · **P05D9** PCV Regulator Valve Control Circuit Low

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Helicopter Flies: Rotor and Tail in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p05d5/>

