

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0704

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0704

Clutch Switch Input Circuit Malfunction

P0704 is a generic powertrain code indicating that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an abnormal signal on the clutch pedal position switch input circuit. The PCM expects a specific voltage change when the clutch pedal is pressed or released, and this code sets when the signal remains outside the expected range for too long or is inconsistent with other inputs such as vehicle speed and engine load.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Low	Intermediate	Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light illuminates, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- The engine may hesitate or stumble when shifting gears, especially during rapid clutch operation.
- Cruise control may fail to engage or disengage unexpectedly because the PCM cannot confirm clutch pedal status.
- The engine may crank but not start if the clutch switch is also used for starter interlock, though this is less common.
- In some vehicles, the idle speed may fluctuate or the engine may stall when coming to a stop with the clutch depressed.

Common causes, most likely first

- A faulty clutch pedal position switch that has worn contacts or internal failure.
- Damaged or misadjusted switch mounting, causing the switch to not be actuated properly by the pedal.
- Corroded, loose, or damaged electrical connectors at the switch or PCM.
- Open or shorted wiring in the clutch switch input circuit, often due to chafing or rodent damage.
- A defective PCM, though this is rare and should only be suspected after all other causes are ruled out.
- Aftermarket floor mats or pedal covers that interfere with clutch pedal travel and switch activation.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the clutch pedal moves freely and returns fully, and check for obstructions like floor mats or debris.
- 2 Inspect the clutch switch connector and wiring for corrosion, looseness, or damage, and repair as needed.
- 3 Test the clutch switch operation with a multimeter to confirm it opens and closes correctly when the pedal is pressed and released.
- 4 Check the switch adjustment according to the manufacturer's procedure, as many switches are position-sensitive.
- 5 If the switch fails testing, replace it with a quality OEM or equivalent part.
- 6 Clear the diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs) and road test the vehicle to confirm the code does not return.
- 7 If the code persists, perform a voltage drop test on the signal circuit and inspect the PCM connectors before condemning the PCM.

Clutch Switch Diagnostics Beyond the Switch

- A misadjusted or loose clutch switch is a frequent cause of P0704 that many technicians overlook when they replace the switch without checking pedal free play and mounting.
- The clutch switch often shares a ground or signal with the brake pedal switch, so a fault in the brake switch circuit can sometimes trigger P0704 as well.
- On some vehicles, the clutch switch signal is used by the cruise control system, and a P0704 may be accompanied by cruise control inoperation without any driveability complaint.
- Aftermarket alarm systems or remote start modules that tap into the clutch switch wiring can introduce resistance or intermittent opens that set P0704.
- A scan tool that can read live data for the clutch pedal position switch is invaluable; watching the switch status change while pressing the pedal can quickly confirm a faulty switch or wiring.

Can I keep driving with P0704?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with P0704 because the fault typically affects only clutch switch inputs for cruise control or starter interlock, but avoid using cruise control until the repair is completed. If the engine stalls or fails to start intermittently, have the vehicle inspected promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wire repair kit (splices, heat shrink, electrical tape)
- Basic hand tools (screwdrivers, socket set, pliers)



Reading P0704

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 7** Transmission.
- 04** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0703** Torque Converter/Brake Switch B Circuit Malfunction · **P0705** Transmission Range Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0720** Output Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Manual Car Driving Simulator: Learn Clutch Control](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0704/>

