

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P070D

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P070D

Transmission Fluid Level Sensor Circuit High

P070D means the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an abnormally high voltage on the transmission fluid level sensor circuit, which usually indicates an open circuit, a short to voltage, or a failed sensor. The TCM expects the sensor signal to stay within a specific voltage range, and a reading above that range sets this code.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or transmission warning light, often with no other symptoms.
- The transmission may enter limp mode, limiting gear selection to a single forward gear.
- Harsh or delayed shifts as the TCM loses accurate fluid level data.
- The driver information center may display a message such as 'Transmission Service Required' or 'Check Transmission'.
- In some vehicles, the transmission may refuse to engage drive or reverse until the fault is cleared.
- Fluid level-related warnings may appear if the vehicle monitors fluid condition or level.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A faulty transmission fluid level sensor sending an incorrect high-voltage signal.
- 2 An open circuit in the sensor signal wire, such as a broken wire or disconnected connector.
- 3 A short to voltage on the sensor signal circuit, often from chafed wiring contacting a power wire.
- 4 Corroded or loose electrical connectors at the sensor or TCM.
- 5 A failed TCM that is misreading the sensor input.
- 6 Low transmission fluid level causing the sensor to read outside its normal range (though this more often sets a low-voltage code).
- 7 Internal transmission damage that affects the sensor's mechanical operation.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the transmission fluid level and condition according to the manufacturer's procedure, as low fluid can affect sensor readings.
- 2 Inspect the sensor and its connector for corrosion, damage, or loose pins, and repair as needed.
- 3 Disconnect the sensor and check the signal circuit for an open or short to voltage using a digital multimeter.
- 4 Backprobe the sensor connector and compare the signal voltage with the manufacturer's specification while moving the harness to detect intermittent faults.
- 5 If the circuit tests good, remove and test the sensor or replace it with a known-good unit and recheck for the code.
- 6 Clear the code and perform a road test to confirm the repair, monitoring live data for the fluid level sensor signal.
- 7 If the code persists after all circuit and sensor checks, diagnose the TCM and its software for faults or required updates.

What the fluid level sensor circuit hides

- A high-voltage code often means the sensor circuit is open rather than the sensor itself being bad, so always check wiring continuity before replacing parts.
- Some transmissions use a combined fluid level and temperature sensor, and a failure in the temperature element can affect the level signal and set this code.
- Intermittent faults from harness chafing may only appear when the engine is cold or during certain driving conditions, so wiggle tests are essential.
- A weak or failing battery or charging system can cause voltage spikes that the TCM interprets as a high signal, so check system voltage first.
- After repairs, some vehicles require a transmission adaptive learning reset or a specific drive cycle before the code will clear permanently.

Can I keep driving with P070D?

You can usually drive the vehicle with this code, but the transmission may shift harshly or enter limp mode, so avoid heavy acceleration and prolonged driving until it is diagnosed. If the transmission is stuck in one gear or refuses to engage, stop driving and seek professional service.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wire piercing probes or backprobe pins
- Vehicle-specific service information for circuit diagrams and voltage specifications
- Basic hand tools for connector and sensor access



Reading P070D

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

Often seen with

P070C Transmission Fluid Level Sensor Circuit Low · **P070E** Transmission Fluid Level Sensor Circuit Intermittent/Erratic · **P070F** Transmission Fluid Level Too Low · **P0710** Transmission Fluid Temperature Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0711** Transmission Fluid Temperature Sensor 'A' Circuit Range/Perf

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p070d/>

