

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P070E

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P070E

Transmission Fluid Level Sensor Circuit Intermittent/Erratic

P070E means the transmission control module (TCM) is seeing an erratic or intermittent signal from the transmission fluid level sensor circuit, rather than a steady reading it can trust. The computer has detected voltage or resistance values that jump, drop out, or fail to stay within the expected range for the fluid level sensor, so it flags the circuit as unreliable.

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 noticeable symptoms
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts as the TCM substitutes default values for the unreliable fluid level signal
- Transmission slipping or failing to engage a gear when the fluid level reading becomes erratic
- A stored P070E code accompanied by other transmission sensor or shift solenoid codes
- Intermittent limp-home mode or reduced power if the TCM cannot determine a safe shift strategy

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low or contaminated transmission fluid affecting the sensor's ability to read level accurately
- 2 A failing transmission fluid level sensor with an intermittent internal fault
- 3 Damaged, chafed, or corroded wiring in the sensor circuit, especially near heat sources or moving components
- 4 Loose or corroded connector pins at the sensor or TCM harness
- 5 A poor ground connection shared by the sensor circuit, causing voltage fluctuations
- 6 A faulty TCM that misinterprets a valid sensor signal, though this is less common
- 7 Debris or sludge buildup on the sensor tip interfering with its reading



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the transmission fluid level and condition using the manufacturer's specified procedure, topping up or replacing fluid if needed
- 2 Inspect the sensor connector and harness for corrosion, loose pins, chafing, or heat damage, repairing as necessary
- 3 Back-probe the sensor circuit and monitor live data for erratic voltage or resistance while wiggling the harness and connectors
- 4 Test the fluid level sensor with a multimeter according to the service information, replacing it if it fails the resistance or voltage specification
- 5 Verify the sensor ground circuit has less than 0.1 volt drop under load, cleaning or repairing grounds if excessive
- 6 Clear the code and perform a road test to confirm the signal remains stable and the code does not return
- 7 If all external checks pass, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow for TCM internal fault confirmation before replacing the module

Why a fluid level code is rarely just the sensor

- A low fluid level from a slow leak is the most commonly overlooked cause of P070E, and simply topping up the fluid can make the code disappear without any parts replacement.
- The sensor circuit often shares a ground or reference voltage with other transmission sensors, so a fault in a neighbouring circuit can set P070E as a secondary code.
- Intermittent codes that appear only on rough roads or after warm-up frequently point to a chafed wire or a connector that loses contact with thermal expansion, not a failed sensor.
- Some transmissions use a fluid level sensor integrated into the valve body or pan, and replacing it requires fluid service and a relearn procedure that a generic scan tool cannot perform.
- A P070E stored alongside shift solenoid or speed sensor codes may indicate a shared power or ground fault rather than multiple failed components, so diagnose the circuit as a whole.

Can I keep driving with P070E?

You can usually drive short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy loads, towing, or aggressive acceleration because erratic fluid level readings can lead to harsh shifts or a sudden limp-home mode. If the transmission begins slipping or refusing to shift, stop driving and arrange a tow to prevent internal damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live transmission data capability
- Digital multimeter with back-probe pins
- Manufacturer-specific service information for fluid level and sensor testing
- Fluid pump or funnel for topping up transmission fluid
- Wire terminal cleaning tools and electrical contact cleaner



Reading P070E

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

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0705** Transmission Range Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0710** Transmission Fluid Temperature Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0720** Output Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction

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/p070e/>

