

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0765

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0765

Shift Solenoid 'D'

P0765 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an electrical fault in the circuit for shift solenoid 'D', which is responsible for controlling a specific gear change in the automatic transmission. The PCM monitors the solenoid's current draw and expected response, and when the signal falls outside the programmed parameters, it commands a failsafe mode and stores this code.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light or transmission warning light illuminates on the dashboard.
- The transmission may enter limp mode, staying in a single gear or refusing to shift.
- Harsh or delayed gear engagements, especially when shifting into drive or reverse.
- Slipping or flaring during gear changes, with engine RPM rising without corresponding vehicle speed.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent.
- The transmission may default to a higher gear to protect itself, reducing acceleration.

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty shift solenoid 'D' itself, such as a burned coil or stuck plunger.
- Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the solenoid or transmission case.
- Transmission fluid contamination or low fluid level causing solenoid malfunction.
- Valve body issues, such as a stuck valve or worn bore, preventing proper solenoid operation.
- A faulty powertrain control module (PCM) or transmission control module (TCM), though rare.
- Internal transmission mechanical failure, such as a broken band or clutch pack, indirectly affecting solenoid performance.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if contaminated.
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors at the transmission for damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 3 Use a scan tool to command the solenoid on and off and listen for a click; no click suggests a faulty solenoid or circuit.
- 4 Measure the resistance of shift solenoid 'D' with a multimeter and compare to the manufacturer's specification.
- 5 Perform a voltage drop test on the solenoid circuit to identify excessive resistance in the wiring.
- 6 If the solenoid is faulty, replace it and clear the code; follow the manufacturer's procedure for solenoid replacement.
- 7 If the solenoid and wiring test good, diagnose the valve body and internal transmission components for mechanical faults.

Before you replace the shift solenoid

- A low or contaminated transmission fluid level is a common cause of solenoid codes and should be checked before condemning the solenoid.
- Intermittent wiring faults at the transmission connector often mimic a failed solenoid, so wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.
- Some vehicles use a single solenoid for multiple functions, so a code for solenoid 'D' may actually indicate a problem with a shared circuit or ground.
- A faulty PCM or TCM can command the solenoid incorrectly, but this is rare and should only be suspected after all other possibilities are ruled out.
- Replacing a solenoid without addressing contaminated fluid or a clogged filter can lead to repeat failures.

Can I keep driving with P0765?

If the transmission is in limp mode or shifting harshly, avoid highway driving and seek service promptly to prevent further damage. If the only symptom is the warning light and the vehicle drives normally, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy loads or aggressive acceleration.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid temperature
- Socket set and torque wrench
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle



Reading P0765

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

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0750** Shift Solenoid 'A' · **P0760** Shift Solenoid 'C' · **P0763** Shift Solenoid 'C' Electrical · **P0766** Shift Solenoid 'D' Performance or Stuck Off

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/p0765/>

