

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0774

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0774

Shift Solenoid 'E' Intermittent

P0774 indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an intermittent fault in the electrical circuit for shift solenoid 'E', which is responsible for controlling a specific gear shift. The TCM monitors the solenoid's current draw and response time, and when the signal deviates from expected values even briefly, it sets this code and may illuminate the check engine light.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Check engine light or transmission warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts, especially when engaging overdrive or higher gears
- Transmission may slip or fail to engage certain gears intermittently
- Erratic shifting patterns or unexpected downshifts while driving
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially in early stages

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty shift solenoid 'E' itself, such as a worn coil or sticking valve
- Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the solenoid
- Poor electrical connection at the transmission control module (TCM) or ground point
- Low or contaminated transmission fluid affecting solenoid operation
- Internal transmission mechanical issues causing intermittent solenoid load
- TCM software glitch or internal fault (less common)

How to diagnose and fix it

- Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace if contaminated
- Inspect the solenoid 'E' wiring harness and connector for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- Perform a resistance test on solenoid 'E' and compare to manufacturer specifications
- Verify power and ground signals at the solenoid connector with a multimeter or test light
- Check TCM connectors and grounds for tightness and cleanliness
- If electrical checks pass, replace solenoid 'E' and clear the code
- If the code persists, diagnose the TCM and internal transmission components



Intermittent Solenoid Codes Can Mislead

- An intermittent code often results from a poor connection rather than a failed solenoid, so always wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.
- Transmission fluid that is low or dirty can cause solenoid 'E' to stick intermittently, mimicking an electrical fault.
- Some vehicles use solenoid 'E' for multiple functions, so a fault may affect more than one gear and set related codes.
- A failing TCM or a software issue can cause false intermittent solenoid codes, so check for technical service bulletins before replacing parts.
- The code may set only under specific conditions like cold starts or high load, so a road test with a scan tool recording live data is essential.

Can I keep driving with P0774?

You can usually drive with this code, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy towing until it is diagnosed, as intermittent shifts can become unpredictable and may lead to transmission damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid temperature
- Wire terminal pick and electrical contact cleaner
- Factory service information for solenoid resistance specifications

Reading P0774

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

Often seen with

P0770 Shift Solenoid 'E' · **P0771** Shift Solenoid 'E' Performance or Stuck Off · **P0772** Shift Solenoid 'E' Stuck On · **P0773** Shift Solenoid 'E' Electrical · **P0775** Pressure Control Solenoid 'B'



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/p0774/>

