

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0797

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0797

Pressure Control Solenoid 'C' Stuck On

P0797 indicates that the transmission control module has detected a fault where pressure control solenoid 'C' is stuck in the energized or 'on' state, meaning it is commanding hydraulic pressure when it should not be. The computer typically recognizes this by comparing the commanded solenoid state to the resulting hydraulic pressure or electrical feedback, and it sets the code when the solenoid remains engaged longer than expected.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Harsh or delayed transmission shifts, especially when the solenoid should be off
- Transmission may enter limp mode or fail-safe mode with reduced performance
- Illuminated check engine light or transmission warning light
- Slipping or flaring during gear changes
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty pressure control solenoid 'C' internally stuck in the on position
- Contaminated transmission fluid or debris blocking the solenoid valve
- Damaged or shorted wiring to the solenoid, causing it to stay energized
- Transmission control module software or hardware fault incorrectly commanding the solenoid
- Valve body wear or sticking valves that prevent proper pressure control
- Low transmission fluid level or degraded fluid affecting solenoid operation

How to diagnose and fix it

- Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related transmission codes
- Inspect the transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace if contaminated
- Perform a visual inspection of the solenoid wiring and connectors for damage or corrosion
- Test the solenoid's electrical resistance and compare to manufacturer specifications
- Check solenoid operation with a bidirectional scan tool to command it on and off while monitoring pressure
- If the solenoid is faulty, replace it and perform any required adaptation or relearn procedure
- If the valve body or internal transmission components are worn, repair or replace as needed



Don't overlook wiring and fluid condition

- A stuck-on solenoid can sometimes be caused by a short to power in the wiring harness rather than the solenoid itself, so always check the circuit before replacing parts.
- Debris from a failing torque converter or clutch material can lodge in the solenoid valve, mimicking an electrical failure and causing the code to return after replacement.
- Some vehicles require a transmission control module relearn or adaptation reset after solenoid replacement, and skipping this step can leave the code stored or cause poor shift quality.
- The code may set intermittently due to temperature-related resistance changes in the solenoid, so a cold-start test can help confirm the fault.
- A faulty transmission control module can command the solenoid on incorrectly, so module diagnostics should be considered if the solenoid and wiring test good.

Can I keep driving with P0797?

It is generally safe to drive short distances to a repair shop, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy towing because the transmission may shift harshly or enter limp mode. Prolonged driving with this code can lead to further transmission damage, so schedule diagnosis soon.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and transmission data capabilities
- Digital multimeter for testing solenoid resistance and wiring continuity
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool fluid level check
- Socket set and basic hand tools for solenoid access
- Factory service information for solenoid specifications and testing procedures

Reading P0797

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

Often seen with

P0715 Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0741** Torque Converter Clutch Circuit Performance or Stuck Off · **P0742** Torque Converter Clutch Circuit Stuck On · **P0796** Pressure Control Solenoid 'C' Performance or Stuck off · **P0798** Pressure Control Solenoid 'C' Electrical



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Inline-Four Engine X-Ray: Firing Order 1-3-4-2](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0797/>

