



P079F

Transmission Friction Element F Slip Detected

P079F indicates that the transmission control module has detected an excessive slip in friction element F, which is a clutch or band inside the automatic transmission. The computer compares input and output shaft speeds and flags the code when the expected gear ratio is not achieved, meaning the element is not holding torque as designed.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	High	Professional	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, especially when the affected element is engaged.
- Slipping sensation during acceleration, where engine speed rises without corresponding vehicle speed increase.
- Transmission may enter limp mode, limiting gear selection to a single gear or neutral.
- Shuddering or vibration during gear changes or under load.
- Poor fuel economy and elevated transmission fluid temperature due to slipping.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low or degraded transmission fluid, leading to insufficient hydraulic pressure and clutch slip.
- 2 Worn or damaged friction element F (clutch pack or band), causing it to lose holding capacity.
- 3 Faulty solenoid or valve body issue that regulates pressure to the affected element.
- 4 Internal transmission leak or seal failure reducing apply pressure to the clutch or band.
- 5 Transmission control module software calibration issue or faulty pressure sensor.
- 6 Mechanical failure such as a broken return spring or accumulator piston in the affected circuit.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if contaminated or low.
- 2 Perform a scan tool diagnostic to read live data and verify slip calculations and pressure commands.
- 3 Inspect wiring and connectors at the transmission solenoids and pressure sensors for damage or corrosion.
- 4 Test solenoid operation and hydraulic pressure with a gauge to isolate electrical versus hydraulic faults.
- 5 Remove transmission pan to inspect for debris, clutch material, or a faulty valve body; repair as needed.
- 6 If internal damage is confirmed, remove and disassemble the transmission to replace worn friction elements and seals.
- 7 After repair, clear codes and perform a relearn or adaptation drive cycle to verify the fix.

What P079F Really Tells You About Clutch F

- A P079F code can be set by a simple low-fluid condition, so always verify fluid level and condition before condemning internal transmission parts.
- The code does not always mean the friction element is completely burned; a sticking solenoid or valve body can cause intermittent slip that mimics a worn clutch.
- Some vehicles require a transmission control module relearn or software update after fluid service or minor repairs to prevent false slip detection.
- Friction element F is often a specific clutch pack used in certain gears, so the slip may only occur in one or two gear ranges, making it easy to miss during a quick test drive.
- Debris from a failing torque converter or cooler can contaminate the valve body and cause pressure loss to element F, so flushing the cooler circuit is critical after a rebuild.

Can I keep driving with P079F?

Driving with P079F is not recommended because continued slipping can overheat and destroy the transmission, leading to a much costlier repair. If you must move the vehicle, drive gently and avoid heavy acceleration, and have it diagnosed promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with transmission live data capability
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or inspection tool
- Hydraulic pressure gauge set
- Digital multimeter for circuit testing
- Transmission jack and stands for pan removal
- Factory service information for pressure specifications and relearn procedures



Reading P079F

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 7** Transmission.
- 9F** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0715 Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0730** Incorrect Gear Ratio · **P0741** Torque Converter Clutch Circuit Performance or Stuck Off · **P079E** Transmission Friction Element E Slip Detected · **P0800** Transfer Case Control System (MIL Request)

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/p079f/>

