

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P07A8

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P07A8

Transmission Friction Element D Performance/Stuck Off

P07A8 indicates that the transmission control module has detected a performance problem with friction element D, meaning the clutch or brake pack is not holding or releasing as commanded, often stuck in the off position. The computer compares expected gear ratio or engagement timing against actual sensor feedback and flags the element as underperforming.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

High

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or transmission warning light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Harsh or delayed shifts, especially when the affected gear is engaged
- Slipping sensation or engine flare during acceleration when the element should be applied
- Transmission may enter limp mode, limiting speed and gear selection
- Inability to engage certain gears or a neutral condition when a gear is commanded
- Poor fuel economy or elevated transmission fluid temperature due to slipping

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low or degraded transmission fluid causing insufficient hydraulic pressure to apply the element
- 2 Sticking or failed solenoid valve that controls fluid flow to friction element D
- 3 Worn or damaged friction plates or seals inside the transmission
- 4 Valve body wear or contamination blocking hydraulic circuits
- 5 Internal transmission harness damage or poor electrical connection to the solenoid
- 6 Faulty transmission control module (TCM) or software calibration issue
- 7 Mechanical binding in the clutch pack or servo piston



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if contaminated or burnt
- 2 Scan all modules for related codes and freeze-frame data to confirm the fault conditions
- 3 Perform a visual inspection of the transmission wiring harness and connectors for damage or corrosion
- 4 Test the solenoid that controls friction element D for resistance and proper operation, replacing if out of specification
- 5 Inspect the valve body for sticking valves or debris, cleaning or rebuilding as needed
- 6 Perform a transmission pressure test to verify hydraulic pressure to the element
- 7 If internal mechanical damage is suspected, remove and disassemble the transmission for inspection and repair

What P07A8 really tells you about element D

- A stuck-off friction element often results from a solenoid that fails electrically rather than a completely worn clutch pack, so testing the solenoid first can save unnecessary transmission removal.
The code can be set by a momentary glitch in the hydraulic circuit that does not recur, so clearing the code and test-driving may reveal whether the problem is intermittent or hard.
- Friction element D is used in different gears depending on transmission design, so the same code can produce varied symptoms across vehicle models.
- A low fluid level from a slow leak can cause this code without any visible puddle, as the transmission may only slip under specific load conditions.
Some transmissions use adaptive learning that can mask a failing element until the adaptation limits are reached, at which point the code sets suddenly.

Can I keep driving with P07A8?

If the transmission is in limp mode or shifting harshly, avoid driving at high speeds or under heavy load and seek service immediately. Continuing to drive with a slipping element can cause further internal damage and increase repair costs.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with transmission module capability
- Digital multimeter for electrical testing
- Transmission pressure gauge
- Factory service information for solenoid and valve body specifications
- Fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid temperature monitoring



Reading P07A8

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 7** Transmission.
- A8** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0730** Incorrect Gear Ratio · **P07A7** Transmission Friction Element C Stuck On · **P07A9** Transmission Friction Element D Stuck On · **P07AA** Transmission Friction Element E Performance/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/p07a8/>

