

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P07E4

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P07E4

Unable to Engage Park

P07E4 indicates that the transmission control module commanded the park lock mechanism to engage but did not receive confirmation that park was achieved within the expected time. The computer monitors the park lock actuator circuit and position feedback, and it sets this code when the requested state and the actual state disagree.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The gear selector may refuse to move out of park or may not latch into park when selected.
- A warning message such as 'Transmission not in Park' or 'Shift to Park' appears on the dashboard.
- The vehicle may not shut down completely or may refuse to release the key or fob.
- The engine may crank but not start because the start enable signal depends on park confirmation.
- The park indicator on the instrument cluster may flash or fail to illuminate.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent.

Common causes, most likely first

- A binding or misadjusted park lock cable or linkage that prevents the mechanism from reaching its detent.
- A failed park lock actuator solenoid or motor that no longer moves the lock pawl.
- A faulty park position sensor or range switch that fails to report engagement to the control module.
- Wiring damage, corrosion, or a loose connector in the park lock actuator circuit.
- Low or contaminated transmission fluid causing hydraulic pressure issues that affect park engagement.
- A mechanical fault inside the transmission range selector or park pawl assembly.
- A software or calibration issue in the transmission control module that misinterprets park feedback.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored and pending codes, and record freeze-frame data to see the conditions when P07E4 set.
- 2 Inspect the park lock cable, linkage, and selector mechanism for binding, wear, or misalignment, and adjust or repair as needed.
- 3 Check the park lock actuator circuit for power, ground, and signal integrity using a multimeter and wiring diagram.
- 4 Test the park position sensor or range switch with a scan tool to confirm it reports park correctly when the lever is moved.
- 5 Verify transmission fluid level and condition, and service the fluid if it is low or contaminated.
- 6 If electrical and mechanical checks pass, perform the manufacturer's park lock calibration or relearn procedure.
- 7 Replace the park lock actuator, sensor, or range switch only after confirming the fault is in the component and not the wiring or adjustment.

Park lock faults that fool good technicians

- A binding shifter cable is one of the most common causes of P07E4, yet many technicians replace the actuator first and find the code returns because the cable still prevents full park engagement.
- The park position sensor can fail intermittently and only set the code when the transmission is hot or after a long drive, so a cold static test may show nothing wrong.
- P07E4 does not always mean the park lock mechanism is broken; a low battery or voltage drop during cranking can cause the control module to lose park feedback and set the code.
- Aftermarket remote start or alarm systems that tap into the park signal circuit can introduce resistance or noise that mimics a failed sensor.
- Some vehicles require a park lock calibration after any battery replacement or module reprogramming, and skipping that step will set P07E4 even with good hardware.

Can I keep driving with P07E4?

If the vehicle will not engage park or will not release the key, do not continue driving because the vehicle may roll or refuse to restart. If the warning is intermittent and park still engages, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid parking on inclines and always use the parking brake.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and live data
- Digital multimeter
- Manufacturer-specific wiring diagram
- Basic hand tools for trim and linkage access
- Transmission fluid level gauge



Reading P07E4

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
7	Transmission.
E4	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0705 Transmission Range Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P07E5** Unable to Engage Drive · **P07E6** Stuck in Park · **P07E7** Stuck in Drive · **P0850** Park/Neutral Switch Input Circuit

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Car Won't Start? Step-by-Step No-Start Diagnosis](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p07e4/>

