

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P07E5

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

## P07E5

### Unable to Engage Drive

P07E5 indicates the transmission control module (TCM) commanded the drivetrain to engage drive but did not receive confirmation that the gear was actually achieved within the expected time. The computer monitors gear engagement through speed sensors and compares the commanded state to the actual state, setting this code when the drive gear cannot be verified.

| 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
- Transmission may stay in neutral or fail to move when shifted into drive
- Rough or delayed engagement when selecting drive from park or neutral
- Vehicle may enter limp mode with reduced power or limited gear selection
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the fault is intermittent

### Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low transmission fluid level due to a leak or neglected maintenance
- 2 Faulty transmission range sensor or internal mode switch
- 3 Sticking or failed shift solenoid or valve body issue
- 4 Internal transmission mechanical failure such as a broken band or clutch pack
- 5 Wiring damage or poor connection at the transmission connector
- 6 Faulty transmission control module (TCM) or software calibration issue

### How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or service as needed
- 2 Inspect the transmission range sensor and its wiring for damage or corrosion
- 3 Scan all modules for related codes and check live data for commanded versus actual gear
- 4 Test shift solenoids and valve body operation with a bidirectional scan tool
- 5 Perform a transmission adaptive relearn or software update if applicable
- 6 Inspect internal transmission components if external checks pass, requiring disassembly



## Before you replace the transmission

- A low fluid level from a slow leak is a common cause that is often overlooked because there may be no visible puddle.
- The range sensor can fail intermittently, so a scan tool showing live gear position data while wiggling the connector is a key test.
- A faulty brake pedal switch or shifter interlock can prevent drive engagement and set this code without any transmission internal fault.
- Some vehicles require a relearn procedure after battery replacement or transmission service, and skipping it can trigger this code.
- The code can be set by a momentary electrical glitch and may not return after clearing if the underlying issue was a loose connection.

## Can I keep driving with P07E5?

If the vehicle fails to engage drive or slips severely, do not continue driving as it can be unsafe and cause further damage. If the light is on but the vehicle drives normally, have it diagnosed promptly and avoid heavy acceleration or towing until repaired.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and live data
- Digital multimeter for wiring and sensor testing
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or service tool
- Jack and jack stands or a lift for under-vehicle inspection
- Factory service information for range sensor and solenoid testing

## Reading P07E5

|           |                                                                      |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>P</b>  | Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.                      |
| <b>0</b>  | Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle. |
| <b>7</b>  | Transmission.                                                        |
| <b>E5</b> | The exact fault within that area.                                    |

## Often seen with

**P0700** Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0705** Transmission Range Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0706** Transmission Range Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0720** Output Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0730** Incorrect Gear Ratio



## See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Excavator Simulator: Hydraulics You Can Operate](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p07e5/>

