

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0809

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0809

# Clutch Position Sensor Circuit Intermittent

P0809 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an intermittent fault in the clutch position sensor circuit, meaning the signal from the sensor momentarily drops out or becomes erratic rather than failing completely. The PCM sets this code when the voltage or frequency from the clutch position sensor does not match expected values for a calibrated period, often due to a loose connection or a failing sensor.

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

## Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light or a clutch-related warning light illuminates on the dashboard.
- The engine may hesitate or stumble when the clutch pedal is pressed or released.
- Cruise control may disengage unexpectedly or fail to engage.
- The vehicle may be difficult to start because the clutch pedal position is not recognized.
- In some cases, there are no noticeable symptoms besides the warning light.

## Common causes, most likely first

- A loose, corroded, or damaged electrical connector at the clutch position sensor.
- A failing clutch position sensor that produces an intermittent signal.
- Wiring damage such as chafed insulation, broken strands, or a short to ground or power in the sensor circuit.
- A misadjusted or worn clutch pedal assembly that causes the sensor to move out of its normal range.
- Faulty reference voltage or ground supplied by the PCM to the clutch position sensor.
- In rare cases, a software issue or internal PCM fault affecting the sensor signal processing.



## How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the clutch position sensor connector and wiring for looseness, corrosion, or damage, and clean or repair as needed.
- 2 Check the sensor's mounting and the clutch pedal for proper adjustment and wear, and adjust or replace worn components.
- 3 Use a scan tool to monitor the clutch position sensor signal while operating the clutch pedal to identify intermittent dropouts.
- 4 Perform a voltage drop test on the sensor's power and ground circuits to rule out wiring resistance issues.
- 5 Test the clutch position sensor with a multimeter according to the manufacturer's specifications, and replace it if it fails.
- 6 If the sensor and wiring are good, check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the PCM that may address the intermittent code.
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair by test-driving the vehicle and confirming the code does not return.

## Intermittent Clutch Sensor Faults You Might Miss

- A common oversight is assuming the clutch position sensor itself is at fault when the real problem is a worn clutch pedal bushing that allows excessive movement and causes an intermittent signal.
- The code can be set by a momentary voltage spike or drop caused by a poor ground connection at the chassis, which is often overlooked during diagnosis.
- In vehicles with a manual transmission, the clutch position sensor is sometimes integrated with the clutch pedal switch, and a failing switch can cause both starting and cruise control issues without setting a hard fault.
- Intermittent codes like P0809 can be caused by electromagnetic interference from aftermarket accessories wired near the sensor harness, so check for non-factory wiring.
- A misdiagnosis trap is replacing the sensor without checking the PCM's reference voltage, as a low reference voltage can mimic a sensor failure and lead to repeat repairs.

## Can I keep driving with P0809?

You can generally continue driving with this code, but avoid aggressive clutch operation and be aware that the engine may stall or hesitate if the signal drops out. Have the fault diagnosed soon to prevent potential starting or drivability issues.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wire probe set
- Electrical contact cleaner
- Vehicle service manual for wiring diagrams and specifications



## Reading P0809

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

## Often seen with

**P0704** Clutch Switch Input Circuit Malfunction · **P0807** Clutch Position Sensor Circuit Low · **P0808** Clutch Position Sensor Circuit High · **P0810** Clutch Position Control Error · **P0830** Clutch Pedal Switch 'A' Circuit

## See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Manual Car Driving Simulator: Learn Clutch Control](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0809/>

