

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0841

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0841

Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'A' Circuit Range/Performance

P0841 indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an out-of-range or performance fault in the circuit for transmission fluid pressure sensor or switch 'A'. The computer compares the sensor's signal to expected values under specific operating conditions and sets this code when the signal does not correlate with other pressure-related inputs or falls outside the normal electrical range.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) on the dashboard.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent.
- Harsh or delayed transmission shifts, particularly when cold or under load.
- Transmission may enter limp mode, limiting gear selection or engine power.
- Erratic or inconsistent shift quality that varies with temperature or driving conditions.
- In some cases, the transmission may slip or fail to engage a gear properly.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty transmission fluid pressure sensor or switch 'A' itself.
- 2 Damaged, chafed, or corroded wiring in the sensor circuit.
- 3 Loose or contaminated electrical connector at the sensor or TCM.
- 4 Low or degraded transmission fluid affecting pressure readings.
- 5 Internal transmission mechanical issues causing actual pressure deviations.
- 6 Faulty transmission control module (TCM) or a software calibration issue.
- 7 Restrictions in the valve body or hydraulic circuit leading to pressure anomalies.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if contaminated or low.
- 2 Inspect the sensor and its connector for physical damage, corrosion, or loose pins; clean and reseat as needed.
- 3 Perform a visual inspection of the wiring harness between the sensor and TCM for chafing, breaks, or shorts.
- 4 Use a scan tool to monitor live pressure sensor data and compare with mechanical pressure gauge readings to confirm sensor accuracy.
- 5 Test the sensor's electrical resistance and voltage output according to manufacturer specifications; replace if out of range.
- 6 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the TCM that may address false pressure codes.
- 7 If all electrical and hydraulic checks pass, diagnose internal transmission components such as the valve body or pump for wear.

What P0841 Often Misses

- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the pressure sensor when the real problem is a chafed wire hidden inside the harness loom, so always perform a continuity and load test on the circuit before condemning the sensor.
- Low transmission fluid level or a clogged filter can cause pressure readings to fall outside the expected range and set P0841 even when the sensor is perfectly functional.
- On some vehicles, a failing transmission control module (TCM) may intermittently corrupt the sensor signal, and a reflash or replacement may be required after all other checks pass.
- The code can be set by a momentary glitch during extreme temperature swings, so clearing the code and test-driving may reveal whether the fault is hard or intermittent.
- Related codes such as P0842 or P0843 often accompany P0841 and can help pinpoint whether the issue is a range/performance fault or a circuit malfunction.

Can I keep driving with P0841?

It is generally safe to drive with P0841 if the transmission shifts normally, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy towing until the fault is diagnosed. If the transmission enters limp mode or shifts harshly, seek service promptly to prevent further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission pressure gauge
- Basic hand tools (socket set, screwdrivers)
- Wiring diagram and service information



Reading P0841

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

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0840** Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'A' Circuit · **P0842** Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'A' Circuit Low · **P0843** Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'A' Circuit High

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/p0841/>

