

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0855

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0855

Drive Switch Input Circuit High

P0855 is a generic powertrain code indicating that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a high voltage condition on the drive switch input circuit, which is typically associated with the transmission range sensor or park/neutral switch. The PCM expects a specific voltage on this circuit when the gear selector is in a given position, and a reading above the normal threshold triggers this code.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light or service engine soon light is illuminated.
- The engine may crank but fail to start because the PCM does not recognize the park or neutral position.
- The transmission may not shift properly or may stay in a single gear (limp mode).
- The reverse lights may not illuminate when reverse is selected.
- The gear position indicator on the dashboard may be inaccurate or blank.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent.

Common causes, most likely first

- A faulty transmission range sensor (also known as park/neutral safety switch) that is internally shorted to voltage.
- Damaged or corroded wiring in the drive switch input circuit, such as a chafed wire shorting to a power source.
- A poor electrical connection at the sensor or PCM connector, causing a high resistance or intermittent open.
- A failed PCM driver or internal fault in the PCM, though this is less common.
- Water intrusion into the sensor or connector, leading to corrosion and voltage irregularities.
- Aftermarket accessories or improper wiring repairs that backfeed voltage into the circuit.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use an OBD-II scanner to retrieve all codes and verify that P0855 is current; clear the code and test-drive to see if it returns.
- 2 Visually inspect the transmission range sensor and its connector for corrosion, damage, or loose pins; repair or replace as needed.
- 3 Check the wiring harness between the sensor and PCM for shorts to voltage or chafed insulation; repair any damaged wires.
- 4 Measure the voltage on the drive switch input circuit at the PCM connector with the key on and engine off; compare to the manufacturer's specification.
- 5 Test the transmission range sensor with a multimeter for proper continuity and resistance in each gear position; replace if out of spec.
- 6 If all external circuits and components test good, suspect an internal PCM fault; consult a professional before replacing the PCM.
- 7 After repairs, clear the codes and perform a relearn or calibration procedure if required by the vehicle manufacturer.

Don't overlook the range sensor connector

- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the PCM when the actual problem is a corroded connector at the transmission range sensor, which can mimic a high voltage fault.
- The drive switch input circuit is often shared with the reverse light circuit on some vehicles, so a short in the reverse light wiring can set P0855.
- Intermittent high voltage readings can be caused by a loose ground connection at the transmission, leading to a floating voltage on the signal circuit.
- Some vehicles use a linear range sensor rather than a simple switch, and a faulty sensor can produce a high voltage signal without any drivability symptoms.
- Aftermarket remote start systems or alarm installations that tap into the park/neutral circuit are a frequent cause of unexplained P0855 codes.

Can I keep driving with P0855?

If the vehicle starts and drives normally, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid relying on the reverse lights or gear indicator. If the engine will not start or the transmission is in limp mode, do not drive; have the vehicle towed to avoid further damage.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner
- Digital multimeter
- Wire repair kit (soldering iron, heat shrink, electrical tape)
- Socket set and screwdrivers
- Vehicle service manual or wiring diagram

Reading P0855

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

Often seen with

P0850 Park/Neutral Switch Input Circuit · **P0851** Park/Neutral Switch Input Circuit Low · **P0852** Park/Neutral Switch Input Circuit High · **P0853** Drive Switch Input Circuit · **P0854** Drive Switch Input Circuit Low

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Engine Cooling System Trainer: How Engines Stay Cool](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0855/>

