

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P085E

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P085E

Gear Shift Control Module B Performance

P085E indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a performance fault in the gear shift control module B, which is responsible for executing shift commands in a specific transmission subsystem. The PCM monitors expected versus actual gear engagement or shift timing and sets this code when the module's response falls outside the programmed parameters.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) on the dashboard
- Transmission may enter limp mode, limiting vehicle speed and gear selection
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts, or failure to shift into certain gears
- Unusual transmission noise or vibration during acceleration
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty gear shift control module B (internal electronic failure)
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connectors between the PCM and the shift control module
- 3 Low or contaminated transmission fluid affecting hydraulic performance
- 4 Sticking or failed shift solenoid or actuator controlled by module B
- 5 Software glitch or outdated calibration in the PCM or shift control module
- 6 Mechanical binding in the shift linkage or internal transmission components

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use an OBD-II scanner to retrieve all stored and pending codes, and record freeze-frame data
- 2 Inspect the transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if contaminated
- 3 Visually inspect the wiring harness and connectors at the shift control module for damage or corrosion
- 4 Perform a resistance and continuity test on the circuits between the PCM and the shift control module
- 5 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the PCM and shift control module
- 6 Test the shift solenoid or actuator associated with module B for proper resistance and operation
- 7 If all external checks pass, replace and reprogram the gear shift control module B



Before you replace the shift control module

- A low battery or charging system fault can cause erratic module behavior and set P085E without any actual module failure.
- Corroded ground connections for the transmission control module are a frequent hidden cause that mimics a failed module.
- The code can be set by a temporary loss of communication on the controller area network (CAN) bus, so always check for other communication codes.
- After replacing the module, a relearn or adaptation procedure is often required; skipping it can cause the code to return immediately.
- Some vehicles use a single module for multiple shift controls, so module B may be a sub-circuit rather than a separate physical unit.

Can I keep driving with P085E?

If the vehicle is in limp mode or shifting erratically, avoid highway driving and seek service promptly. If only the warning light is on and the transmission behaves normally, you may drive cautiously to a repair shop, but do not ignore the code.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner with bidirectional control and transmission data
- Digital multimeter for circuit testing
- Factory service information for wiring diagrams and specifications
- Transmission fluid level gauge and fluid pump
- Socket set and trim removal tools for module access

Reading P085E

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
8	Transmission.
5E	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0750** Shift Solenoid 'A' · **P085D** Gear Shift Control Module A Performance · **P085F** Up and Down Shift Switch Circuit Range/Performance · **U0101** Lost Communication with TCM



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/p085e/>

