

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P08AB

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P08AB

Clutch Pedal Position Sensor A Circuit Intermittent/Erratic

P08AB means the engine computer has seen the clutch pedal position sensor A signal jump around or drop out intermittently, rather than reporting a smooth, believable pedal travel. The computer compares the sensor voltage against expected values and flags the code when the signal is erratic for a calibrated amount of time or number of key cycles.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light or a dedicated clutch/transmission warning lamp is illuminated.
- The engine may hesitate, stumble, or flare in rpm during clutch engagement from a stop.
- Cruise control may disengage or refuse to set because the computer cannot confirm clutch pedal status.
- A no-crank or intermittent no-crank condition if the computer uses the clutch switch to authorize starting.
- Rough or inconsistent manual gear changes, especially when pulling away from a standstill.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, particularly on vehicles that use the signal only for emissions and drivability logic.

Common causes, most likely first

- A worn or contaminated clutch pedal position sensor track or internal potentiometer.
- Loose, corroded, or partially broken wiring and connector pins at the sensor or along the harness.
- A misadjusted or loose sensor mounting bracket that lets the sensor move out of its calibrated range.
- Mechanical wear in the clutch pedal pivot, bushings, or return spring causing erratic sensor movement.
- Water intrusion or road debris contamination inside the sensor housing or connector.
- A failing clutch master cylinder or pedal assembly that changes the pedal-to-sensor geometry.
- Intermittent opens in the sensor ground or reference voltage circuit shared with other sensors.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules and record freeze-frame data for P08AB, then clear the code and test-drive to confirm it returns.
- 2 Inspect the clutch pedal position sensor connector and harness for corrosion, chafing, and loose pins, and wiggle-test the wiring while watching live sensor voltage.
- 3 Check the sensor mounting bracket and pedal assembly for looseness, wear, or misalignment, and repair or replace worn bushings or brackets.
- 4 Back-probe the sensor signal, ground, and reference voltage circuits and compare readings with the manufacturer's specification through the full pedal travel.
- 5 Remove and inspect the sensor for contamination or a worn track, then replace it if the signal is erratic on the bench or with a known-good unit.
- 6 Relearn or recalibrate the clutch pedal position sensor with a scan tool if the vehicle requires it after replacement or adjustment.
- 7 Clear codes and perform a thorough road test covering stop-start driving, cruise control engagement, and several key cycles to verify the repair.

What a clutch pedal sensor code really means

- A clutch pedal position sensor often shares its reference voltage or ground with the accelerator pedal sensor, so a fault in that shared circuit can set P08AB without the clutch sensor itself being bad.
- Many vehicles use two clutch pedal switches, a cruise-control cancel switch and a starter interlock switch, and a failing secondary switch can produce an erratic signal that the computer attributes to sensor A.
- Aftermarket floor mats, pedal covers, or a bent pedal arm can change the sensor travel enough to set an intermittent code, so inspect the pedal area before condemning the sensor.
- On some vehicles the clutch pedal position signal is used for engine torque management during shifts, so an erratic signal can cause drivability complaints that seem unrelated to the clutch.
- A battery that is weak or has been disconnected can cause the computer to lose its learned clutch pedal endpoints, producing an intermittent code until a relearn procedure is completed.

Can I keep driving with P08AB?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with P08AB, but avoid relying on cruise control and be prepared for occasional hesitation or a no-crank condition. Have the fault diagnosed promptly, especially if the engine stalls or refuses to start intermittently.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter with back-probe pins
- Manufacturer service information for sensor voltage specifications and relearn procedures
- Basic hand tools for trim and pedal assembly access
- Contact cleaner and dielectric grease for connector service

Reading P08AB

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

Often seen with

P083F Clutch Pedal Switch A/B Correlation · **P08A8** Clutch Pedal Position Sensor A Circuit Range/Performance · **P08A9** Clutch Pedal Position Sensor A Circuit Low · **P08AA** Clutch Pedal Position Sensor A Circuit High · **P08AC** Clutch Pedal Position Not Learned

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/p08ab/>

