

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

**P08BB**

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

## P08BB

### Pressure Control Solenoid L Performance/Stuck Off

P08BB indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected a performance fault with pressure control solenoid L, specifically that the solenoid is stuck in the off position or not responding as commanded. The TCM monitors the solenoid's electrical circuit and the resulting hydraulic pressure; when the actual pressure does not match the commanded value, or the solenoid fails an electrical self-test, this code is stored.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Transmission

### Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) on the dashboard
- Harsh or delayed transmission shifts, especially when cold
- Transmission may enter limp mode, limiting vehicle speed and gear selection
- Slipping or flaring during gear changes
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, particularly if the fault is intermittent

### Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty pressure control solenoid L (internal coil failure or stuck valve)
- 2 Contaminated transmission fluid (dirt or debris blocking solenoid passages)
- 3 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the solenoid
- 4 Low transmission fluid level due to a leak
- 5 Internal transmission mechanical wear causing pressure deviations
- 6 TCM software calibration issue or internal fault

### How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace if contaminated
- 2 Inspect the solenoid's electrical connector and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 3 Perform a resistance test on solenoid L and compare to manufacturer specifications
- 4 Use a scan tool to command the solenoid on and off while monitoring pressure and current draw
- 5 If electrical tests pass, remove the valve body and inspect solenoid L for sticking or debris
- 6 Replace solenoid L if it fails electrical or mechanical testing
- 7 After repair, clear codes and perform a relearn or adaptation drive cycle



## Don't overlook fluid condition and wiring

- A sticking solenoid is often caused by degraded transmission fluid rather than a failed solenoid; skipping fluid service can lead to repeat failures.
- Intermittent wiring faults at the solenoid connector can mimic a stuck solenoid, so always wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.
- Some vehicles use solenoid L for multiple functions, so a fault may affect several shift qualities and not just one gear.
- A low battery or charging system issue can cause the TCM to log false solenoid codes; verify system voltage before condemning the solenoid.
- After replacing the solenoid, a transmission adaptation reset is often required to restore proper shift feel.

## Can I keep driving with P08BB?

If the vehicle is in limp mode or shifting harshly, avoid highway driving and seek service promptly to prevent further transmission damage. If only the warning light is on with no drivability issues, you may drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy loads or aggressive acceleration.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid level
- Wiring diagram and service information
- Basic hand tools for valve body access

## Reading P08BB

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

## Often seen with

**P0700** Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P07BF** Input/Turbine Shaft Speed Sensor A Circuit Low · **P08B9** Clutch Pedal Position Sensor A/B Correlation · **P08BA** Pressure Control Solenoid L · **P08BC** Pressure Control Solenoid L Stuck On



### See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Push-Button Start Works: Keyless Ignition](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p08bb/>

