

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P08C3

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P08C3

Pressure Control Solenoid M

P08C3 indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an electrical fault in the circuit for pressure control solenoid M, which is one of the hydraulic pressure regulators inside the transmission valve body. The computer monitors the solenoid's electrical current and response, and it sets this code when the measured current or voltage falls outside the expected range for the commanded duty cycle.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or transmission warning light
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts, especially when the transmission is cold
- Transmission may enter limp mode and stay in a single gear
- Slipping or flaring during acceleration
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, particularly if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty pressure control solenoid M itself, such as an open or shorted internal coil
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the solenoid or valve body
- 3 Contaminated transmission fluid causing solenoid sticking or poor electrical contact
- 4 Valve body wear or debris blocking the solenoid's hydraulic circuit
- 5 Transmission control module (TCM) software glitch or internal fault
- 6 Low transmission fluid level or degraded fluid affecting solenoid performance

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related transmission codes before proceeding
- 2 Inspect the transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if contaminated
- 3 Check the wiring harness and connector at the transmission for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins
- 4 Measure the resistance of solenoid M with a multimeter and compare to the manufacturer's specification
- 5 Perform a voltage drop test on the solenoid circuit while commanding the solenoid with a scan tool
- 6 If electrical checks pass, remove the valve body and inspect the solenoid for debris or mechanical sticking
- 7 Replace the faulty solenoid or valve body assembly as needed, then clear codes and verify repair with a road test



Don't assume the solenoid is bad

- A low or degraded transmission fluid level can cause pressure control solenoid codes because the solenoid cannot maintain the commanded pressure, yet the solenoid itself may be perfectly functional.
- Corroded or pushed-back pins in the transmission connector are a frequent cause of P08C3 that many technicians overlook when they focus only on the solenoid.
- The TCM may set P08C3 intermittently due to a momentary electrical glitch, so always check for stored history codes and freeze-frame data before condemning parts.
- Replacing a solenoid without addressing contaminated fluid or a worn valve body often leads to a repeat failure, so the root cause must be corrected.
- Some vehicles require a software update to the TCM to correct false solenoid codes, so check for technical service bulletins before replacing hardware.

Can I keep driving with P08C3?

It is generally safe to drive short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing because the transmission may shift harshly or enter limp mode. If the vehicle is already in limp mode or shifting erratically, stop driving and have it towed to prevent further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with transmission capabilities
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid level check
- Wire terminal removal tools
- Factory service information for resistance specifications and torque values

Reading P08C3

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
8	Transmission.
C3	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0740** Torque Converter Clutch Circuit Malfunction · **P08C2** Pressure Control Solenoid L Control Circuit High · **P08C4** Pressure Control Solenoid M Performance/Stuck Off



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Inline-Four Engine X-Ray: Firing Order 1-3-4-2](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p08c3/>

