



P08CF

Shift Solenoid J Electrical

P08CF indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an electrical fault in the circuit for shift solenoid J, which is one of the solenoids that controls hydraulic pressure for gear shifts. The TCM monitors the solenoid's electrical current and voltage and sets this code when the readings fall outside the expected range, pointing to an open, short, or excessive resistance in the solenoid or its wiring.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light or transmission warning light illuminates on the dashboard.
- The transmission may enter limp mode, holding a single gear or refusing to shift.
- Harsh or delayed gear engagements, especially when cold.
- Slipping between gears or failure to shift into certain gears.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty shift solenoid J itself, such as a burned coil or internal short.
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the solenoid.
- 3 Open or shorted circuit in the wiring between the TCM and the solenoid.
- 4 Poor electrical connection at the TCM connector.
- 5 Transmission fluid contamination or low fluid level affecting solenoid operation.
- 6 Internal transmission mechanical issues causing abnormal solenoid load (less common).

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related transmission codes.
- 2 Inspect the transmission fluid level and condition; top off or service as needed.
- 3 Visually inspect the solenoid wiring harness and connectors for damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 4 Measure the resistance of shift solenoid J with a multimeter and compare to the manufacturer's specification.
- 5 Check for power and ground signals at the solenoid connector with a test light or multimeter while cranking or running.
- 6 If the solenoid tests bad, replace it and clear the code; if wiring is faulty, repair the affected section.
- 7 After repair, clear codes and perform a road test to confirm the transmission shifts correctly and the code does not return.



Don't overlook the wiring harness

- A chafed or pinched wire in the harness near the transmission pan is a frequent cause that is often missed when only the solenoid is replaced.
- The TCM may set P08CF even when the solenoid is good, if the connector pins are spread or corroded, so always perform a wiggle test on the harness.
- Low or dirty transmission fluid can cause solenoid performance to degrade and set an electrical code, so fluid condition should be checked before condemning the solenoid.
- In some vehicles, shift solenoid J is part of the solenoid pack and cannot be replaced individually, requiring replacement of the entire assembly.
- An intermittent fault may only appear when the transmission is hot or during certain driving conditions, so a thorough road test with a scan tool recording live data is essential.

Can I keep driving with P08CF?

If the vehicle is in limp mode or shifting erratically, avoid highway driving and seek repair promptly to prevent transmission damage. If the only symptom is the warning light and the transmission shifts normally, you can drive cautiously to a shop, but avoid heavy loads or aggressive acceleration.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid level

Reading P08CF

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

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0750** Shift Solenoid 'A' · **P0765** Shift Solenoid 'D' · **P08CE** Shift Solenoid J Stuck On · **P08D0** Shift Solenoid J Intermittent



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/p08cf/>

