

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P08E2

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

P08E2

Shift Solenoid L Intermittent

P08E2 indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an intermittent fault in the electrical circuit for shift solenoid L, which is one of the solenoids that controls hydraulic pressure for a specific gear shift. The TCM monitors the solenoid's current draw and response time; an intermittent signal means the circuit sometimes falls outside expected parameters, but the fault is not currently continuous.

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, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Harsh or delayed shifts, particularly when the affected gear is engaged
- Transmission may slip or fail to engage certain gears intermittently
- The TCM may enter limp mode, limiting vehicle speed and gear selection
- Inconsistent shift quality that comes and goes, especially when the transmission is cold or hot
- Sometimes no symptoms besides the warning light, as the fault may be stored during a brief glitch

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty shift solenoid L itself, with internal coil intermittency or sticking
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the solenoid or TCM
- 3 Poor electrical connection due to loose pins or water intrusion in the connector
- 4 Contaminated transmission fluid causing solenoid valve sticking or erratic operation
- 5 TCM software glitch or internal fault causing false intermittent detection
- 6 Mechanical wear in the valve body affecting solenoid L's hydraulic circuit

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; service if contaminated or low
- 3 Check the wiring harness and connector at shift solenoid L for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 4 Measure the resistance of solenoid L and compare to manufacturer specifications
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the harness while monitoring solenoid L data to detect intermittent faults
- 6 If the solenoid is faulty, replace it and clear the code; verify repair with a road test
- 7 If the TCM is suspected, check for software updates or perform a relearn procedure



Intermittent Solenoid Faults Often Misdiagnosed

- An intermittent solenoid code can be set by a momentary voltage drop caused by a poor ground connection, so always check grounds before replacing the solenoid.
- Contaminated transmission fluid is a common cause of intermittent solenoid codes because debris can temporarily block the solenoid valve, causing erratic operation.
- A failing TCM or a software glitch can mimic a solenoid fault, so check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) before condemning the solenoid.
- The code may be stored due to a low battery or charging system issue that caused a voltage spike, so verify battery and charging system health first.
- In some transmissions, solenoid L is part of a solenoid body assembly, and replacing just the solenoid may not be possible; check the manufacturer's procedure.

Can I keep driving with P08E2?

You can usually drive with this code, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy towing until it is repaired, as intermittent shifts can worsen and lead to transmission damage. If the transmission enters limp mode or shifts become severely harsh, seek service immediately.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with transmission data capabilities
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level gauge
- Wire terminal removal tools
- Manufacturer service information for solenoid resistance specifications

Reading P08E2

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
8	Transmission.
E2	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P08E1** Shift Solenoid L Electrical · **P08E3** Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit Range/Performance · **P08E4** Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit Low



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/p08e2/>

