

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P08E4

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P08E4

Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit Low

P08E4 indicates that the transmission control module has detected an abnormally low voltage or current on the control circuit for shift solenoid L, which is one of the solenoids that manages hydraulic pressure for gear shifting. The computer expects a specific electrical load when commanding the solenoid, and a low condition means the circuit is grounded, shorted, or the solenoid itself has failed.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

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, especially when the transmission attempts to engage the affected gear
- Transmission stuck in a single gear or defaulting to limp mode
- Slipping or flaring during gear changes
- Reduced fuel economy due to improper shift scheduling
- In some cases, the vehicle may enter a fail-safe mode that limits engine power

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty shift solenoid L internally shorted or open
- 2 Damaged or chafed wiring in the solenoid control circuit, causing a short to ground
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the solenoid or transmission case
- 4 Transmission control module (TCM) internal fault driving the circuit low
- 5 Contamination or debris in the valve body causing the solenoid to draw excessive current
- 6 Low transmission fluid level or degraded fluid leading to solenoid overheating and failure

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if contaminated
- 2 Inspect the solenoid L electrical connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Measure resistance of solenoid L at the transmission connector and compare to manufacturer specification
- 4 Test the control circuit for a short to ground using a multimeter with the TCM disconnected
- 5 If resistance is out of spec, replace shift solenoid L and clear the code
- 6 If wiring is faulty, repair or replace the affected harness section
- 7 If the circuit tests good but the code persists, diagnose the TCM for internal driver failure



What the low circuit reading really means

- A low circuit code often results from a short to ground rather than a failed solenoid, so always check the wiring before replacing parts.
- Solenoid L may be part of a solenoid pack that requires transmission pan removal, and on some models the valve body must be dropped for access.
- Debris in the transmission fluid can cause the solenoid to stick and draw high current, which the TCM may interpret as a low circuit condition.
- A weak battery or charging system fault can cause voltage drops that mimic a low circuit code, so verify battery and charging voltage first.
- The code may set intermittently due to heat or vibration, and a wiggle test of the harness while monitoring live data can reveal the fault.

Can I keep driving with P08E4?

Driving with P08E4 is possible but not recommended because the transmission may shift erratically or enter limp mode, increasing the risk of further damage. Avoid heavy acceleration and towing, and have the fault diagnosed promptly to prevent a more costly transmission repair.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and transmission code capability
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid temperature
- Socket set and trim removal tools for access to the solenoid connector
- Factory service information for circuit specifications and solenoid resistance values

Reading P08E4

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
8	Transmission.
E4	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0750** Shift Solenoid 'A' · **P08E3** Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit Range/Performance · **P08E5** Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit High · **P08E6** Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit/Open



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/p08e4/>

