

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P08E6

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P08E6

Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit/Open

P08E6 indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an open circuit or excessive resistance in the control circuit for shift solenoid L, which is one of the solenoids that manages hydraulic pressure for gear shifts. The TCM commands the solenoid to change state and monitors the circuit for expected voltage or current feedback; when the feedback is missing or out of range, it sets this code and may default to a limp-home mode.

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
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts, or the transmission may stick in a single gear
- Transmission may enter limp-home mode with reduced power and limited speed
- Slipping or flaring during upshifts or downshifts
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the open circuit is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or disconnected wiring harness to the shift solenoid L, including chafed wires or a broken connector
- 2 Failed shift solenoid L itself, such as an open coil or internal electrical fault
- 3 Corroded or loose pins in the solenoid connector or the TCM connector
- 4 Open circuit inside the transmission valve body, such as a broken trace or failed internal harness
- 5 Faulty transmission control module (TCM) driver circuit for solenoid L
- 6 Blown fuse or relay that supplies power to the solenoid circuit (if applicable to the vehicle)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all stored and pending codes, then clear codes and test-drive to see if P08E6 returns
- 2 Inspect the solenoid L wiring harness and connector for visible damage, corrosion, or loose pins, and repair as needed
- 3 Measure resistance of shift solenoid L at its connector and compare to the manufacturer's specification to check for an open coil
- 4 Check for power and ground signals at the solenoid connector with a multimeter or test light while commanding the solenoid on and off with the scan tool
- 5 Perform a continuity and voltage drop test on the circuit between the TCM and solenoid L to locate an open or high-resistance point
- 6 If the circuit and solenoid test good, suspect the TCM and follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow for module testing or replacement
- 7 After repairs, clear codes and verify proper transmission operation with a road test, ensuring no pending codes return

Common misdiagnosis traps for P08E6

- A faulty solenoid is often replaced when the real problem is a chafed wire in the harness near the transmission, so always perform a wiggle test and continuity check before condemning the solenoid.
- Intermittent open circuits can set P08E6 only under certain conditions such as temperature changes or vibration, so a static resistance check may pass while the fault is still present.
- Some vehicles use a shared power feed for multiple solenoids, and a fault in that feed can set codes for several solenoids including L, so check for additional codes that point to a common circuit.
- The TCM may command a default gear when P08E6 is stored, masking the original symptom, so diagnosing solely by drive feel can be misleading.
- Aftermarket replacement solenoids can have different resistance values than the original, so always verify against the factory service information to avoid setting a new code.

Can I keep driving with P08E6?

Driving with P08E6 is possible but not recommended because the transmission may enter limp-home mode or shift unpredictably, which can be unsafe in traffic. Avoid heavy acceleration or towing and have the vehicle diagnosed promptly to prevent further transmission damage.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and transmission data
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage measurement
- Test light or logic probe
- Factory service information for wiring diagrams and solenoid specifications
- Wire repair kit with crimpers and heat shrink

Reading P08E6

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
8	Transmission.
E6	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0750** Shift Solenoid 'A' · **P08E5** Shift Solenoid L Control Circuit High · **P08E7** Drive Motor A Clutch Enable Circuit · **P0973** Shift Solenoid 'A' 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/p08e6/>

