

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P08E8

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P08E8

Drive Motor A Clutch Enable Circuit Low

P08E8 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an abnormally low voltage or current on the enable circuit for the clutch that engages Drive Motor A, which is the primary traction motor in many hybrid and electric vehicles. The PCM monitors this circuit to ensure the clutch can be commanded on and off properly; a low condition means the circuit is likely shorted to ground, has excessive resistance, or the clutch actuator 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 service vehicle soon message
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the clutch is not currently needed
- Inability to engage or disengage Drive Motor A, leading to reduced power or a no-start condition
- Harsh engagement or slipping of the clutch during acceleration or deceleration
- Transmission may default to a limp-home mode or fail to shift properly
- Possible stalling or unexpected loss of drive torque while driving

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or chafed wiring in the clutch enable circuit, often shorting to ground
- 2 Failed clutch actuator solenoid or motor that has an internal short
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the clutch actuator or PCM
- 4 Blown fuse or faulty relay supplying power to the clutch enable circuit
- 5 Internal PCM driver failure causing a low signal on the enable circuit
- 6 Contamination or mechanical binding in the clutch mechanism increasing current draw
- 7 Poor ground connection for the clutch actuator or PCM



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the clutch enable circuit wiring for obvious damage, chafing, or corrosion, and repair as needed
- 2 Check all connectors at the clutch actuator and PCM for tightness and clean any corrosion
- 3 Test the clutch actuator solenoid or motor for resistance and compare to specification; replace if out of range
- 4 Verify battery voltage and ground integrity at the PCM and clutch actuator
- 5 Check fuses and relays related to the clutch enable circuit and replace any that are faulty
- 6 Use a scan tool to command the clutch on and off while monitoring live data to confirm the circuit responds correctly
- 7 If all external circuits and components test good, suspect the PCM and perform pinpoint tests before replacement

Clutch Enable Circuit Low: Hidden Causes

- A low voltage on the enable circuit often results from a short to ground in the wiring harness, which can be caused by rubbing against sharp metal edges or heat damage.
The clutch actuator may test fine electrically but still set this code if the mechanical linkage is binding, causing excessive current draw that the PCM interprets as a low circuit.
- In some vehicles, a weak or failing 12-volt battery can cause erratic PCM operation and set false low-voltage codes on actuator circuits.
- This code can be set by a faulty ground connection at the clutch actuator, which is often overlooked because the ground is shared with other components.
Do not assume the clutch actuator is defective; always check the enable circuit for continuity and shorts to ground before replacing parts.

Can I keep driving with P08E8?

If the vehicle drives normally with only the warning light on, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing. If the vehicle enters limp mode, experiences harsh engagement, or loses power, stop driving and have it towed to prevent further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Test light
- Socket set and trim removal tools



Reading P08E8

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 8** Transmission.
- E8** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P08E7 Drive Motor A Clutch Enable Circuit · **P08E9** Drive Motor A Clutch Enable Circuit High · **P08EA** Drive Motor A Clutch Pawl Position Circuit · **P08EB** Drive Motor A Clutch Pawl Position Circuit Low · **P08EC** Drive Motor A Clutch Pawl Position Circuit High

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Manual Car Driving Simulator: Learn Clutch Control](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p08e8/>

