

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P08EB

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P08EB

Drive Motor A Clutch Pawl Position Circuit Low

P08EB indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a low voltage condition on the signal circuit for the clutch pawl position sensor of drive motor A. This sensor reports whether the pawl that locks the motor for parking is engaged or released, and a low signal means the circuit is shorted to ground or the sensor is not returning a valid voltage.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or service vehicle soon message
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the vehicle driving normally
- Inability to engage or disengage the parking pawl, leading to a no-start or no-move condition
- Transmission may stay in neutral or refuse to shift into park
- Intermittent operation of the pawl mechanism, causing the vehicle to roll when parked
- Reduced power or limp mode if the fault affects motor control strategies

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or chafed wiring harness at the clutch pawl position sensor connector
- 2 Failed clutch pawl position sensor (internal short to ground)
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the sensor or PCM
- 4 Short to ground in the signal circuit between the sensor and the PCM
- 5 Faulty powertrain control module (rare but possible)
- 6 Water intrusion or debris in the sensor connector causing low resistance
- 7 Aftermarket alarm or remote start wiring improperly tapped into the circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and verify P08EB is current, then check for related codes in other modules
- 2 Inspect the clutch pawl position sensor connector and wiring for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 3 Measure resistance from the sensor signal wire to ground with the sensor disconnected to check for a short
- 4 Back-probe the sensor signal circuit at the PCM and compare voltage with the sensor connected and disconnected
- 5 Test the sensor with a multimeter for proper voltage output through its range of motion
- 6 Replace the clutch pawl position sensor if it fails electrical testing, then clear codes and retest
- 7 If the circuit and sensor test good, check for PCM software updates or internal faults before replacement

What a low pawl signal really means

- A low signal code often sets because the sensor ground circuit is open, not because the sensor itself has failed, so always verify ground integrity before condemning the sensor.
- The clutch pawl position sensor may share a ground or reference voltage with other sensors, so a fault in a neighboring circuit can pull the signal low and set P08EB.
- Intermittent low signals can be caused by vibration or heat cycling that temporarily shorts the signal wire against a metal bracket or exhaust component.
- Some vehicles use a smart actuator with integrated electronics; a low signal can be commanded by the module itself during a self-test, so check for pending codes and freeze-frame data before replacing parts.
- A weak or failing 12-volt battery can cause momentary low-voltage conditions that trigger this code without any hard fault in the sensor circuit.

Can I keep driving with P08EB?

If the vehicle drives normally and the only symptom is the warning light, you can drive short distances to a repair shop, but avoid relying on the parking pawl until the fault is fixed. If the vehicle will not engage park or shows a no-start condition, do not drive it and have it towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Back-probe kit or breakout box
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Socket set and trim removal tools



Reading P08EB

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

Often seen with

P08E8 Drive Motor A Clutch Enable Circuit Low · **P08E9** Drive Motor A Clutch Enable Circuit High · **P08EA** Drive Motor A Clutch Pawl Position Circuit · **P08EC** Drive Motor A Clutch Pawl Position Circuit High · **P08ED** Drive Motor A Clutch Pawl Position Performance

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/p08eb/>

