

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0900

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0900

Clutch Actuator Circuit/Open

P0900 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an open circuit in the clutch actuator circuit, meaning the electrical path to the actuator is broken or has excessive resistance. The PCM monitors the circuit and sets this code when the expected voltage or current is outside the normal range, preventing proper clutch actuation.

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 a transmission warning light on the dashboard
- Difficulty shifting gears or inability to engage gears, especially in automated manual or dual-clutch transmissions
- Clutch may not engage or disengage properly, causing slipping or stalling
- Transmission may enter limp mode or default to a single gear
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the open circuit is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Broken, chafed, or corroded wiring in the clutch actuator circuit
- 2 Failed clutch actuator motor or solenoid
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the actuator or PCM connector
- 4 Blown fuse or faulty relay supplying power to the actuator circuit
- 5 Internal open circuit in the actuator itself
- 6 Faulty PCM (rare, but possible if all other causes are ruled out)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use a scan tool to verify P0900 and check for related codes; record freeze-frame data
- 2 Inspect the clutch actuator circuit wiring for visible damage, corrosion, or loose connectors
- 3 Check the fuse and relay for the clutch actuator circuit and replace if faulty
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage at the actuator connector to confirm an open circuit
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the wiring harness while monitoring actuator data to find intermittent opens
- 6 If the circuit is intact, test the actuator with a known-good unit or follow manufacturer diagnostics
- 7 Clear codes and verify repair with a test drive, ensuring the clutch operates smoothly



Don't overlook the simple wiring faults

- A common oversight is assuming the actuator itself has failed when the real problem is a corroded connector or a broken wire hidden inside the loom.
- Intermittent opens can set P0900 only under certain conditions, such as vibration or temperature changes, so a wiggle test is often more revealing than a static resistance check.
- Some vehicles use a clutch actuator that is part of the transmission mechatronic unit, and an open circuit there can be misdiagnosed as a transmission failure.
- The PCM may set P0900 if the actuator circuit is open, but a shorted circuit would typically set a different code, so do not replace the actuator without confirming an open.
- Always check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) for the specific vehicle, as some models have known harness routing issues that cause this code.

Can I keep driving with P0900?

If the vehicle drives normally with only the warning light on, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy loads. If the transmission is in limp mode or the clutch is not operating, stop driving and have the vehicle towed to prevent damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Test light
- Basic hand tools for connector and panel access

Reading P0900

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

Often seen with

P0901 Clutch Actuator Circuit Range/Performance · **P0902** Clutch Actuator Circuit Low · **P0903** Clutch Actuator Circuit High · **P0904** Gate Select Position Circuit · **P0905** Gate Select Position Circuit Range/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/p0900/>

