

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0903

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0903

Clutch Actuator Circuit High

P0903 means the powertrain control module has detected an abnormally high voltage on the clutch actuator circuit, which usually indicates an open circuit, a short to voltage, or a failed actuator. The computer expects the circuit to operate within a specific voltage window and flags this code when the signal exceeds the upper limit.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light or transmission warning lamp
- Difficulty engaging or disengaging the clutch, especially when starting off
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts in vehicles with an automated manual transmission
- The engine may stall when coming to a stop or when the clutch is pressed
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, particularly if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Open or damaged wiring in the clutch actuator circuit, such as a broken wire or corroded connector
- 2 Short to voltage on the signal or power wire feeding the clutch actuator
- 3 Failed clutch actuator solenoid or motor
- 4 Poor ground connection at the actuator or chassis
- 5 Faulty clutch position sensor or its wiring
- 6 Defective powertrain control module, though this is rare

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored and pending codes, then clear codes and test-drive to see if P0903 returns
- 2 Visually inspect the clutch actuator, its connector, and the wiring harness for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 3 Measure resistance and voltage on the actuator circuit according to the manufacturer's specifications
- 4 Check the actuator's ground circuit for excessive resistance and clean or repair as needed
- 5 Test the clutch actuator with a bidirectional scan tool to command it and observe operation
- 6 If the actuator fails testing, replace it and recheck the circuit
- 7 If wiring is faulty, repair or replace the affected section and verify the repair with a test drive



Clutch actuator circuit checks before replacement

- A loose or corroded connector at the clutch actuator is a frequent cause of this code, so always inspect and clean terminals before condemning the actuator itself.
- The code can set intermittently due to vibration or temperature changes, so a wiggle test of the harness while monitoring live data can reveal the fault.
- On some vehicles, a weak battery or charging system can cause voltage spikes that trigger this code, so check battery health and grounds first.
- P0903 is often accompanied by other transmission codes, so diagnosing the root cause requires looking at the full picture rather than just this code.
- Replacing the actuator without checking the wiring can lead to a repeat failure if the underlying circuit problem is not addressed.

Can I keep driving with P0903?

If the vehicle drives normally, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy loads. If the clutch fails to engage or the vehicle stalls frequently, stop driving and have it towed to prevent damage or unsafe conditions.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Basic hand tools for connector and component access
- Test light or jumper wires for circuit testing

Reading P0903

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

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0900** Clutch Actuator Circuit/Open · **P0901** Clutch Actuator Circuit Range/Performance · **P0902** Clutch Actuator Circuit Low · **P0904** Gate Select Position Circuit



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/p0903/>

