

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0942

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0942

Hydraulic Pressure Unit

P0942 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a fault within the hydraulic pressure unit, which is the electro-hydraulic assembly responsible for generating and regulating pressure for the transmission or another hydraulically controlled system. The computer monitors the unit's pressure sensor and control circuit and sets this code when the measured pressure or electrical feedback falls outside the expected range for the commanded state.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Harsh or delayed transmission shifts, or the transmission entering limp mode
- Slipping or flaring during gear changes under load
- A whining or buzzing noise from the hydraulic pressure unit area
- Reduced vehicle performance or inability to engage certain gears
- In some cases, the vehicle may refuse to move or may stall when load is applied

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low or contaminated hydraulic fluid, often due to a leak or overdue service
- 2 Faulty hydraulic pressure sensor or its wiring connector
- 3 Failed hydraulic pressure control solenoid or actuator inside the unit
- 4 Internal mechanical wear or blockage in the hydraulic pressure unit
- 5 Damaged or corroded electrical harness at the unit
- 6 A restricted hydraulic filter or pickup screen
- 7 PCM software calibration issue or internal driver fault (less common)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the hydraulic fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid as needed
- 2 Inspect the wiring and connectors at the hydraulic pressure unit for damage or corrosion
- 3 Scan live data for commanded versus actual hydraulic pressure to confirm the fault
- 4 Test the hydraulic pressure sensor and control solenoid with a multimeter or scan tool
- 5 Perform a resistance and voltage drop test on the control circuit
- 6 Replace the faulty sensor, solenoid, or the hydraulic pressure unit if internal failure is confirmed
- 7 Clear codes and perform a relearn or adaptation drive cycle, then verify the repair

What the hydraulic pressure unit code hides

- A low fluid level from a slow leak is the most common cause, yet many technicians replace the pressure unit before checking the fluid.
- The code can be set by a simple loose or corroded connector at the unit, so always inspect the harness before condemning the unit.
- On some vehicles, a failing transmission control module or a software calibration issue can mimic a hydraulic pressure unit fault.
- The hydraulic pressure unit may also supply pressure for other systems such as power steering or brake assist, so related codes can appear.
- A generic P0942 does not pinpoint the exact failed component; live data and circuit tests are required to avoid misdiagnosis.

Can I keep driving with P0942?

It is generally safe to drive a short distance to a repair shop if the vehicle shifts normally and the warning light is the only symptom, but avoid heavy loads or aggressive driving. If the transmission slips, shifts harshly, or the vehicle enters limp mode, stop driving and have it towed to prevent further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Hydraulic pressure gauge set
- Factory service information for pressure specifications
- Fluid pump or siphon for topping off hydraulic fluid
- Basic hand tools for connector and component access



Reading P0942

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

Often seen with

P0841 Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'A' Circuit Range/ · **P0868** Transmission Fluid Pressure Low
 · **P0941** Hydraulic Oil Temperature Sensor Circuit Intermittent · **P0943** Hydraulic Pressure Unit Cycling Period Too Short · **P0944** Hydraulic Pressure Unit Loss of Pressure

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Helicopter Flies: Rotor and Tail in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0942/>

