

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0991

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0991

Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'E' Circuit Intermittent

P0991 indicates that the transmission control module has detected an intermittent fault in the electrical circuit for transmission fluid pressure sensor or switch 'E'. The circuit works correctly at times but momentarily drops out or sends erratic signals, which the computer flags as a pending or stored code.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or transmission warning light
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is brief
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts during certain driving conditions
- Transmission may enter limp mode (stuck in one gear) intermittently
- Slight shudder or slip when the pressure signal drops out momentarily

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Frayed, chafed, or intermittently shorting wiring in the sensor 'E' circuit
- 2 Loose or corroded electrical connector at the sensor or transmission case
- 3 Failing transmission fluid pressure sensor or switch 'E' itself
- 4 Internal transmission harness damage from heat or fluid contamination
- 5 Poor ground connection for the transmission control module or sensor return circuit
- 6 Low or degraded transmission fluid causing erratic pressure readings

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or service if contaminated
- 2 Inspect the sensor 'E' connector and wiring for looseness, corrosion, or chafing
- 3 Wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live pressure data to reproduce the intermittent fault
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage on the sensor 'E' circuit and compare to manufacturer specifications
- 5 Replace the transmission fluid pressure sensor or switch 'E' if electrical tests point to it
- 6 Repair or replace damaged sections of the transmission wiring harness
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to confirm the repair and ensure no pending code returns



Intermittent faults that fool many technicians

- A sensor that tests perfectly on a cold engine can still fail when hot, so always reproduce the fault with the transmission at operating temperature.
- The code often sets from a momentary voltage spike or drop that lasts less than a second, making a simple multimeter check useless without a graphing scan tool.
- A poor ground for the transmission control module can mimic a failed sensor 'E' and cause this code along with other unrelated transmission codes.
- Aftermarket transmission fluid that is not the specified type can alter pressure sensor readings and trigger intermittent codes without any electrical fault.
- Do not replace the sensor 'E' based solely on this code; always verify the circuit integrity first because wiring faults are more common than sensor failure.

Can I keep driving with P0991?

You can usually continue driving if the vehicle shifts normally, but avoid heavy towing or aggressive acceleration until the fault is repaired. If the transmission enters limp mode or shifts harshly, have it diagnosed promptly to prevent further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and graphing capability
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or service tool
- Wire terminal pick and electrical contact cleaner
- Factory service information for circuit specifications

Reading P0991

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

Often seen with

P0715 Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0720** Output Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0989** Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'E' Circuit Low · **P0990** Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'E' Circuit High · **P0992** Transmission Fluid Pressure Sensor/Switch 'F' Circuit



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0991/>

