

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0A08

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0A08

DC/DC Converter Status Circuit

P0A08 indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a fault in the status circuit of the DC/DC converter, which is the component that steps high-voltage battery power down to charge the 12-volt system on hybrid and electric vehicles. The code is set when the converter's status signal does not match the voltage or current conditions the computer expects, pointing to a communication or circuit problem rather than necessarily a failed converter.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or hybrid system warning light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- A low or dead 12-volt battery because the DC/DC converter is not charging it properly
- Electrical accessories such as lights, radio, or power windows behaving erratically or dimming
- The vehicle entering a reduced-power or limp mode with limited speed
- Difficulty starting or a completely dead vehicle if the 12-volt battery is depleted

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Corroded, loose, or damaged wiring and connectors in the DC/DC converter status circuit
- 2 A failed DC/DC converter assembly
- 3 A faulty status signal sensor or internal circuit within the converter
- 4 Poor ground connection for the converter or the control module
- 5 A software or calibration issue in the powertrain control module
- 6 Damage to the wiring harness from heat, vibration, or rodent activity



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a thorough visual inspection of the DC/DC converter, its connectors, and the related wiring harness for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 2 Check the 12-volt battery voltage and charging system operation to confirm the converter is not charging
- 3 Use a scan tool to monitor live data for the DC/DC converter status signal and compare it with manufacturer specifications
- 4 Test the continuity and resistance of the status circuit wiring between the converter and the control module
- 5 Verify the converter's ground connection is clean and tight
- 6 If the circuit tests good, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow chart to test the converter itself or substitute a known-good unit
- 7 Repair or replace faulty wiring, connectors, or the converter as needed, then clear the code and verify the repair

Don't replace the converter before checking this

- A weak or failing 12-volt battery can cause misleading status circuit readings, so always load-test the battery before condemning the converter.
- The status circuit is a low-current signal path, and a tiny amount of corrosion at a connector can set this code without any visible damage to the converter.
- On some vehicles, a DC/DC converter fault will not illuminate the check engine light but will instead trigger a hybrid system warning, so scan all modules for stored codes.
- After replacing the converter, some manufacturers require a calibration or learn procedure; skipping it can cause the code to return immediately.
- Rodent damage to the wiring harness is a surprisingly common cause of status circuit faults, especially on vehicles parked outdoors for extended periods.

Can I keep driving with P0A08?

You can usually drive a short distance to a repair shop, but avoid long trips or heavy electrical loads because the 12-volt battery may not be charging and the vehicle could stall or shut down unexpectedly. If the vehicle enters limp mode or the battery warning light is on, stop driving and seek professional assistance.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery load tester
- Wiring diagram and service information for the specific vehicle
- Basic hand tools for connector and harness inspection



Reading P0A08

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

Often seen with

P0562 System Voltage Low · **P0A09** DC/DC Converter Status Circuit Low Input · **P0A0A** High Voltage System Interlock Circuit A · **P0A0B** High Voltage System Interlock Circuit A Performance · **P0A0C** High Voltage System Interlock Circuit A Low

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Coolant Temperature Sensor Works](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0a08/>

