

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0A11

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0A11

DC/DC Converter Enable Circuit/Open

P0A11 indicates that the powertrain control module has detected an open circuit or loss of continuity in the enable circuit for the DC/DC converter, which is the component that steps high-voltage battery power down to charge the 12-volt system. The computer expects a specific voltage or current on the enable control wire when it commands the converter on, and it is seeing a value outside that expected range, so it flags the circuit as open.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or a hybrid system warning light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- The 12-volt battery may run down over time because the DC/DC converter is not charging it, leading to hard starting or a dead battery
- Accessories such as interior lights, radio, or power windows may dim or operate sluggishly if the 12-volt system voltage drops
- The vehicle may enter a reduced-power or failsafe mode, limiting speed or disabling certain electrical features
- A message on the driver information display indicating a charging system fault or hybrid system problem

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A broken, chafed, or disconnected wire in the enable circuit between the control module and the DC/DC converter
- 2 Corroded or loose terminals at the DC/DC converter connector or the control module connector
- 3 A failed DC/DC converter internal enable circuit, though this is less common than wiring issues
- 4 A faulty powertrain control module or hybrid control module that is not supplying the enable signal correctly
- 5 Damage to the wiring harness from rodents, road debris, or previous repair work
- 6 A blown fuse or fusible link that supplies power to the enable circuit, if the circuit is fused separately



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the DC/DC converter and control module connectors for corrosion, loose pins, or backed-out terminals, and clean or repair as needed
- 2 Check the enable circuit wiring for continuity and shorts to ground or power using a digital multimeter, repairing any damaged sections
- 3 Verify that the enable circuit fuse, if present, is intact and that power is reaching the circuit as expected
- 4 Use a scan tool to command the DC/DC converter on and monitor the enable circuit voltage or current to confirm the open circuit
- 5 If the wiring and connectors are good, test the DC/DC converter enable input directly with a known-good signal to determine if the converter is at fault
- 6 If the converter does not respond to a valid enable signal, replace the DC/DC converter assembly
- 7 After repairs, clear the diagnostic trouble codes and verify that the enable circuit operates correctly and the code does not return

What the enable circuit really does

- The enable circuit is a low-current control signal, not the main power feed, so a failure often does not immediately kill the 12-volt system but instead prevents the converter from turning on when commanded.
- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the DC/DC converter when the actual fault is a chafed wire behind a panel or near a sharp bracket, so always perform a continuity test before condemning the converter.
- Some vehicles will set this code intermittently if the enable circuit is affected by water intrusion into a connector, so inspect for signs of moisture or green corrosion.
- The code can be set by a faulty control module that fails to provide the enable signal, but this is rare and should only be suspected after all wiring and converter tests pass.
- A weak or failing 12-volt battery can cause voltage fluctuations that mimic an enable circuit fault, so always check battery health and charging system operation before deep circuit testing.

Can I keep driving with P0A11?

You can usually drive the vehicle short distances to a repair shop, but avoid long trips or heavy electrical loads because the 12-volt battery may not be charging and could leave you stranded. If the vehicle enters a reduced-power mode or the battery warning light illuminates, stop driving and seek service immediately.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter
- Scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Back probe pins or breakout box
- Terminal pick and electrical contact cleaner



Reading P0A11

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

Often seen with

P0562 System Voltage Low · **P0A10** DC/DC Converter Status Circuit High Input · **P0A12** DC/DC Converter Enable Circuit Low · **P0A13** DC/DC Converter Enable Circuit High · **P0A14** Engine Mount Control Circuit/Open

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Crank and Cam Position Sensors Work](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0a11/>

