

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0D56

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0D56

Proximity Detection Circuit A

P0D56 indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a fault in the proximity detection circuit designated as 'A', which is typically part of an advanced driver assistance system that senses nearby objects. The computer monitors the circuit's voltage or signal integrity and sets this code when the readings fall outside the expected range, indicating an open, short, or erratic signal.

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 dedicated driver assistance warning light
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the proximity system is not actively engaged
- Inoperative or erratic operation of parking sensors, blind spot monitoring, or collision avoidance features
- False alerts or warnings from the driver assistance system when no obstacle is present
- Intermittent activation of the proximity warning chime or display
- Reduced functionality of adaptive cruise control or automatic emergency braking if equipped

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or disconnected wiring harness at the proximity sensor or control module
- Corroded or loose electrical connector pins in the proximity detection circuit
- Faulty proximity sensor itself, such as an ultrasonic or radar sensor, due to internal failure
- Failed proximity detection control module or a software glitch in the module
- Physical obstruction or damage to the sensor face from debris, impact, or weather
- Water intrusion into the sensor or connector causing short circuits
- Aftermarket accessories or improper previous repairs interfering with the circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the proximity sensor and its wiring for visible damage, corrosion, or loose connections, and clean or secure as needed
- 2 Use a scan tool to read live data from the proximity detection circuit and compare readings to manufacturer specifications
- 3 Perform a voltage drop test on the circuit to identify excessive resistance or open circuits
- 4 Check for technical service bulletins or software updates for the proximity detection module
- 5 Substitute a known-good sensor or module from the same vehicle to isolate the faulty component
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring, connectors, or the faulty sensor/module as diagnosed
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair by test-driving the vehicle and confirming the circuit operates within range

Proximity Circuit Faults Often Misdiagnosed

- A common oversight is replacing the proximity sensor when the real problem is a chafed wire hidden behind a bumper cover or inner fender liner.
The code can be set by a momentary voltage spike or low battery condition, so always check battery health and charging system before condemning parts.
- Proximity detection circuits are often shared with other systems like park assist or blind spot monitoring, so a fault in one sensor can disable multiple features.
- After a collision repair, the code may appear due to misaligned sensors or pinched harnesses, even if all components were replaced.
Some vehicles require a calibration procedure after sensor replacement, and skipping it can cause the code to return immediately.

Can I keep driving with P0D56?

The vehicle remains safe to drive under normal conditions because the proximity detection system is an assist feature, but you should avoid relying on parking sensors, blind spot monitoring, or collision avoidance until the fault is repaired. If the warning light is accompanied by reduced braking or steering assist, have the vehicle inspected immediately.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Manufacturer service information for circuit specifications



Reading P0D56

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

Often seen with

P0D57 Proximity Detection Circuit A Range/Performance · **P0D58** Proximity Detection Circuit A Low · **P0D59** Proximity Detection Circuit A High · **U0122** Lost Communication With Vehicle Dynamics Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Gyroscope Works: Gimbals and Precession](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0d56/>

