

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0D5C

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0D5C

Battery Charger Hybrid/EV Battery Output Power Performance

P0D5C indicates that the vehicle's computer has detected a performance problem with the hybrid or electric vehicle (EV) battery charger's output power. The computer monitors the charger's ability to deliver the requested power to the high-voltage battery and sets this code when the actual output does not match the commanded value within an expected tolerance.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) on the dashboard
- Reduced or disabled hybrid/EV charging capability
- The vehicle may enter a reduced power mode or fail to start
- A warning message on the driver information display about the charging system
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty hybrid/EV battery charger assembly
- Degraded or damaged high-voltage battery pack
- Wiring or connector issues in the high-voltage charging circuit
- Software or calibration error in the charger control module
- Cooling system malfunction affecting charger performance
- Internal sensor failure within the charger unit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use a scan tool to retrieve all stored codes and freeze-frame data, then clear codes and test-drive to see if P0D5C returns.
- 2 Visually inspect the high-voltage charging system wiring and connectors for damage, corrosion, or loose connections.
- 3 Check the charger cooling system for proper operation, including coolant level and pump function.
- 4 Perform a high-voltage battery state-of-health test using the manufacturer's diagnostic equipment.
- 5 Verify the charger control module software is up to date and apply any available calibration updates.
- 6 If the fault persists, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow chart to test the charger output with a high-voltage load tester.
- 7 Replace the hybrid/EV battery charger assembly if all other checks pass and the fault remains.

Charger Output Faults Often Misdiagnosed

- A weak 12-volt auxiliary battery can cause erratic behavior in the charger control module and set this code, so always check the 12-volt system first.
- Intermittent P0D5C codes are frequently caused by poor high-voltage connector pin tension that only acts up under vibration or temperature changes.
- The charger may derate output power due to a failing battery cooling fan or pump, setting this code without any charger hardware fault.
- Some vehicles set P0D5C when the high-voltage battery is simply at the end of its life and can no longer accept a full charge, so battery state-of-health must be verified.
- After replacing the charger, the new unit often requires programming or adaptation to the vehicle, and skipping this step will cause the code to return.

Can I keep driving with P0D5C?

If the vehicle is drivable and only the warning light is on, you may drive it short distances to a repair shop, but avoid relying on charging and do not attempt long trips. If the vehicle fails to start or shows a reduced power warning, have it towed to avoid further damage to the high-voltage system.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with hybrid/EV support
- Digital multimeter (DMM) with high-voltage rating
- High-voltage battery tester
- Insulation tester (megohmmeter)
- Manufacturer-specific diagnostic software



Reading P0D5C

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- D** Hybrid propulsion.
- 5C** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0A0D High Voltage System Interlock Circuit A High · **P0A1F** Battery Energy Control Module A Performance · **P0D5A** Proximity Detection Circuit A Intermittent/Erratic · **P0D5B** Battery Charger 14 Volt Output Power Performance · **P0D5D** Battery Charger Hybrid/EV System Discharge Time Too Short

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Regenerative Braking Works in Electric Cars](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0d5c/>

