

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0D98

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0D98

Battery Charger Coupler Unlock Control Circuit Performance

P0D98 indicates that the battery charger coupler unlock control circuit is not performing as expected, meaning the computer has detected an open, short, or out-of-range condition in the wiring or actuator that releases the charging coupler. This circuit is responsible for physically unlocking the connector so it can be removed after charging, and the fault prevents reliable release.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Hybrid propulsion

Symptoms you may notice

- The charging coupler fails to unlock or release from the vehicle's charge port.
- A warning light or message appears on the dashboard indicating a charging system fault.
- The vehicle may refuse to start or enter drive mode because the coupler is still detected as locked.
- Audible clicking or no sound from the unlock actuator when attempting to release the coupler.
- Intermittent release operation, working sometimes and failing other times.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the mechanical release still functions manually.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty coupler unlock actuator or solenoid that has failed electrically or mechanically.
- 2 Damaged, corroded, or disconnected wiring in the unlock control circuit.
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the coupler unlock connector or ground point.
- 4 Failed body control module (BCM) or charging control module driver for the unlock circuit.
- 5 Sticking or binding mechanical release mechanism preventing actuator movement.
- 6 Water intrusion or debris in the charge port assembly affecting the unlock sensor or actuator.

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the stored code and check for any related codes in the charging system before clearing.
- 2 Inspect the charge port area for physical damage, debris, or corrosion and clean if necessary.
- 3 Test the unlock actuator with a scan tool bidirectional control to confirm it operates.
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage on the unlock control circuit wiring to check for opens or shorts.
- 5 Check the actuator's ground connection and connector pins for tightness and corrosion.
- 6 If the actuator fails to respond, replace the coupler unlock actuator or charge port assembly as required.
- 7 Clear codes and perform a relearn or functional test of the coupler release to confirm repair.



Common traps when diagnosing coupler unlock faults

- A binding mechanical release can mimic an electrical fault, so always check for free movement of the coupler latch before condemning the actuator.
- The unlock control circuit often shares a ground with other body components, and a corroded ground can set this code without any actuator fault.
- Some vehicles require a scan tool to command the unlock actuator for testing; a simple jumper wire may not work and can damage the driver circuit.
- After replacing the actuator or charge port, the system may need a calibration or learn procedure to recognize the new component.
- Intermittent codes often result from a chafed wire near the charge port hinge or a loose connector that only acts up when the coupler is moved.

Can I keep driving with P0D98?

If the coupler is stuck locked, do not force it, as this can damage the charge port or actuator; use the manual release if available and avoid charging until repaired. Driving with the warning light is generally safe if the coupler is properly released, but the vehicle may not start if it detects the coupler as locked.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Socket and wrench set
- Electrical contact cleaner

Reading P0D98

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

Often seen with

P0D95 Battery Charger Coupler Unlock Control Circuit/Open · **P0D96** Battery Charger Coupler Unlock Control Circuit Low · **P0D97** Battery Charger Coupler Unlock Control Circuit High · **P0D99** Battery Charger Coupler Temperature Sensor A Circuit · **P0D9A** Battery Charger Coupler Temperature Sensor A Circuit Range/P



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Catalytic Converter Works: 3D Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0d98/>

