



PODAC

Hybrid/EV Battery Cell Balancing Circuit A

PODAC indicates that the hybrid or electric vehicle's battery management system has detected a fault in the cell balancing circuit for battery module 'A'. The computer monitors the circuitry that equalizes charge across individual cells, and it has flagged an abnormal condition such as an open circuit, short, or out-of-range voltage in that balancing path.

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.
- Reduced electric-only driving range or decreased fuel economy as the system limits balancing to protect the battery.
- A message on the dashboard indicating a hybrid battery fault or reduced power.
- In some cases, the vehicle may enter a limp mode or refuse to start if the fault is severe.
- Intermittent warning light activation that may come and go with temperature or vibration.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A faulty cell balancing circuit board or module within the battery pack.
- 2 Damaged wiring or connectors between the battery management system and the balancing circuit.
- 3 A failed battery cell that cannot be balanced, causing the circuit to report an error.
- 4 Corrosion or loose terminal connections at the battery module.
- 5 A software glitch in the battery management system that requires a recalibration or update.
- 6 Internal failure of the battery management system itself, though less common.

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use a scan tool to retrieve all stored codes and freeze-frame data, then clear the code and test-drive to see if it returns.
- 2 Visually inspect the battery pack wiring, connectors, and terminals for corrosion, looseness, or damage.
- 3 Perform a battery pack voltage check and compare cell voltages to identify any imbalance.
- 4 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the battery management system.
- 5 If wiring and connections are good, test the cell balancing circuit board or module with a multimeter or oscilloscope.
- 6 Replace the faulty balancing circuit board, module, or affected battery cells as needed.
- 7 After repairs, clear codes and perform a battery pack relearn or calibration procedure if required.



What a balancing circuit fault really means

- A cell balancing circuit fault does not always mean the battery pack is failing; it can be caused by a simple loose connector or a software hiccup.
- Many technicians replace the entire battery pack when only a small balancing board or a single cell is at fault, leading to unnecessary expense.
- The code can be set by a temporary voltage spike during charging, so always check for related codes and freeze-frame data before condemning parts.
- Some vehicles require a battery management system software update to correct false balancing faults, so check for TSBs first.
- The balancing circuit often works only during specific conditions (e.g., key-off or charging), so the fault may not appear during a short test drive.

Can I keep driving with P0DAC?

You can usually continue driving with this code, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy electrical loads that stress the battery pack. Have the vehicle inspected soon, as prolonged driving with a balancing fault can lead to reduced battery performance or further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with hybrid/EV battery data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery pack voltage tester
- Insulation tester
- Oscilloscope (for advanced diagnostics)

Reading P0DAC

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

Often seen with

P0DAB Hybrid/EV Battery Cell Balancing Performance · **P0DAD** Hybrid/EV Battery Cell Balancing Circuit A Stuck On · **P0DAE** Hybrid/EV Battery Cell Balancing Circuit A Stuck Off · **P0DAF** Hybrid/EV Battery Cell Balancing Circuit A Range/Performance · **P0DB0** Hybrid/EV Battery Cell Balancing Circuit B



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/p0dac/>

