

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0043

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0043

Vehicle Communication Bus B (-) Low

U0043 means the vehicle's communication network has detected that the low-side signal wire of Bus B is shorted to ground or otherwise pulled below its normal voltage range. The computer that monitors this bus (often the gateway or a control module on that network) sets the code when it sees the Bus B minus voltage stay too low for a calibrated amount of time, which prevents reliable data exchange between modules.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Network	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Professional	Network wiring and bus faults

Symptoms you may notice

- Multiple warning lights on the dashboard, often including the check engine light, ABS, and airbag lights
- One or more control modules stop communicating with a scan tool, so some systems cannot be scanned
- Intermittent or complete failure of features that rely on module-to-module communication, such as the radio, climate control, or power windows
- The engine may run poorly or the transmission may shift harshly if the affected bus carries powertrain data
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent or confined to a non-critical module
- The vehicle may fail to start or may stall if the low bus voltage disrupts communication with the engine control module

Common causes, most likely first

- A short to ground in the Bus B minus wire, often from chafed insulation against a metal body panel or bracket
- A faulty control module on Bus B that internally pulls the minus line low
- Corroded, loose, or damaged connector pins at any module or inline connector on the bus
- Water intrusion into a connector or module, causing the low line to short to ground
- Aftermarket accessories or improper repairs that tapped into the bus wiring and created a ground fault
- A failed terminating resistor inside a module that skews the bus voltage on the minus side
- A defective gateway module that misreports bus voltage and sets the code falsely



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and read all stored codes to confirm U0043 is current and identify which modules are offline
- 2 Obtain the factory wiring diagram for the vehicle and locate the Bus B minus circuit, including all connectors and splices
- 3 Measure resistance from the Bus B minus wire to chassis ground with the battery disconnected; a reading below a few ohms indicates a short
- 4 Visually inspect the harness along its routing for chafing, pinches, or corrosion, especially near moving parts and body seams
- 5 Disconnect modules one at a time on the affected bus and recheck the minus voltage or resistance to isolate a module that is pulling the line low
- 6 Repair the shorted wire or replace the faulty module, then clear codes and verify that all modules communicate and the code does not return
- 7 Perform a road test with a scan tool recording bus voltage to confirm the repair holds under vibration and temperature changes

What a low Bus B minus really tells you

- A short to ground on the minus wire is far more common than a failed module, so always check the harness routing before condemning any control unit.
- The code can be set by a module that is not on Bus B itself if the gateway misinterprets a voltage drop caused by a faulty power or ground feed to that module.
- Intermittent U0043 often appears after body work or stereo installation where a screw or wire tapped into the bus harness, so ask about recent repairs.
- Some vehicles set U0043 when the battery is weak or the charging system is faulty, because low system voltage can drag the bus minus line below its threshold.
- Do not replace the gateway module first; a simple chafed wire behind the dash or in the door jamb is a much more frequent culprit.

Can I keep driving with U0043?

If the warning light is on but the vehicle runs and shifts normally, you can drive to a repair shop, but avoid long trips and do not tow a trailer. If multiple systems have failed or the engine stalls, stop driving and have the vehicle towed, because loss of bus communication can disable safety and powertrain functions without warning.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and module communication capability
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage measurement
- Factory wiring diagram or equivalent service information
- Wire terminal removal tools and electrical repair kit
- Oscilloscope for viewing bus waveform if intermittent fault is suspected

Reading U0043

- U** Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 0** Network wiring and bus faults.
- 43** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0042** Vehicle Communication Bus B (-) Open · **U0044** Vehicle Communication Bus B (-) High · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Helicopter Flies: Rotor and Tail in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0043/>

