

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0049

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0049

Vehicle Communication Bus C (+) Low

U0049 indicates that the vehicle's communication bus C positive circuit is reading low voltage, which means the control modules on that network cannot reliably exchange data. The computer detects this when the bus voltage stays below its expected threshold for a set period, often disrupting communication 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 illuminated on the dashboard, often including the check engine light and stability control lamp
- Intermittent or complete failure of modules on bus C, such as the radio, climate control, or body control module
- No-start condition or engine stalling if the affected bus carries critical powertrain data
- Erratic operation of accessories like power windows, door locks, or instrument cluster gauges
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the fault is intermittent or affects a non-critical module
- Communication error messages on the driver information center or infotainment screen

Common causes, most likely first

- A short to ground or chafed wire on the bus C positive circuit, often from rubbing against metal under the dash or in a door jamb
- Corroded or loose connector pins at a module or inline harness connector on bus C
- A failed control module internally shorting the bus C positive line to ground
- Damaged or pinched wiring harness from previous repairs, accident damage, or rodent activity
- Water intrusion into a connector or module causing corrosion and low voltage on the bus
- A faulty termination resistor or splice pack on the bus C network pulling the positive line low



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use an OBD-II scan tool to read all stored codes and identify which modules are offline or reporting communication faults on bus C
- 2 Obtain the factory wiring diagram for the vehicle and locate the bus C positive circuit, its connectors, and all modules attached to it
- 3 Visually inspect the harness and connectors along the bus C positive circuit for chafing, corrosion, water intrusion, or loose pins
- 4 Disconnect modules one at a time and measure resistance or voltage on the bus C positive line to see if a module is pulling it low
- 5 Perform a voltage drop test on the bus C positive circuit with the key on to confirm where the low voltage originates
- 6 Repair or replace the damaged section of wiring, connector, or the faulty module, then clear codes and verify communication with all modules
- 7 Road test the vehicle and recheck for stored codes to confirm the repair is complete and no intermittent fault remains

What a low bus C positive really means

- A low reading on bus C positive often comes from a single module shorting internally, so disconnecting modules one by one is faster than replacing the whole harness
- The code can set intermittently from a wire that only chafes when the vehicle hits a bump, so wiggle-testing the harness while watching live data is essential
- Bus C is not always a high-speed CAN network; on some vehicles it is a slower convenience bus, so a fault here may not affect engine operation at all
- Aftermarket accessories spliced into the bus C wiring are a common cause that owners overlook, especially alarms, remote starters, and dash cams
- A weak or failing battery can cause modules to drop off the bus and set U0049, so always check battery voltage and ground connections before chasing wiring

Can I keep driving with U0049?

If the vehicle starts and runs normally, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid long trips and expect that some accessories may not work. If the engine stalls, refuses to start, or multiple safety systems are disabled, stop driving and have the vehicle towed.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and module communication capabilities
- Digital multimeter with voltage and resistance functions
- Factory wiring diagram or service information for the specific vehicle
- Wire terminal removal tools and electrical contact cleaner
- Test light or logic probe for quick voltage checks

Reading U0049

- 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.
- 49** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0048** Vehicle Communication Bus C (+) Open · **U0050** Vehicle Communication Bus C (+) High · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Boxer Engine Works: Flat Engine Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0049/>

