

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0069

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0069

Vehicle Communication Bus E (-) Open

U0069 is a generic network communication code indicating that the vehicle's communication bus E, specifically the negative (low) signal wire, is open or disconnected. The powertrain control module (PCM) or another module on that bus detected a loss of the differential signal on the bus E minus circuit, which prevents normal data exchange between modules.

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

- Multiple warning lights on the dashboard, often including the check engine light, ABS, and airbag lights
- Intermittent or complete failure of communication with scan tools for some modules
- Erratic operation of systems that share the bus, such as transmission shifting or stability control
- No-start condition if the bus is critical for immobilizer or PCM communication
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the open is on a non-critical segment
- Other modules may set companion communication codes (U-codes) for the same bus

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Broken or chafed wire in the bus E minus circuit, often at a flex point or near a connector
- 2 Corroded or loose terminal at a module connector or splice pack on the bus E minus wire
- 3 Failed module that internally shorts or opens the bus E minus line
- 4 Water intrusion into a connector or module causing corrosion and an open circuit
- 5 Aftermarket accessory improperly tapped into the bus wiring, creating an open
- 6 Damaged splice pack or junction connector where bus E minus branches to multiple modules



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all stored codes and freeze-frame data to confirm U0069 and identify which modules are offline
- 2 Obtain the vehicle-specific wiring diagram for bus E and locate all connectors, splices, and module pins on the minus circuit
- 3 Perform a visual inspection of the bus E minus wiring for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins at each connector
- 4 Use a digital multimeter to measure resistance from the bus E minus pin at the PCM to the same pin at each module; an open will show infinite resistance
- 5 Check for continuity between bus E minus and ground, and between bus E minus and bus E plus, to rule out a short
- 6 Disconnect modules one at a time and recheck bus continuity to isolate a failed module that is opening the circuit
- 7 Repair the open by splicing a new section of wire, replacing the terminal, or replacing the faulty module, then clear codes and verify communication

Bus E Minus Opens Hide in Connectors

- A common oversight is assuming the code points to a module failure, but an open on the minus wire often originates at a connector that has been disturbed during unrelated repairs.
- The bus E minus circuit may be shared with other buses through a gateway module, so an open on one segment can cause codes on multiple buses and mislead diagnosis.
- Resistance checks must be done with the battery disconnected and all modules unplugged; otherwise parallel paths can give a false good reading.
- Aftermarket alarms or remote starters tapped into the bus wiring are a frequent cause of an open on the minus line that owners forget to mention.
- A module that is completely dead can pull the entire bus E minus line low or open, so unplugging modules one at a time is a reliable isolation technique.

Can I keep driving with U0069?

If the vehicle starts and runs normally, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid long trips and be prepared for intermittent electrical behavior. If the engine cranks but does not start or multiple safety systems are disabled, do not drive and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with enhanced manufacturer-specific software
- Digital multimeter with resistance and continuity functions
- Vehicle-specific wiring diagram for bus E
- Back probe pins and jumper wires
- Terminal removal tools for module connectors



Reading U0069

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

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0068** Vehicle Communication Bus E (+) High · **U0070** Vehicle Communication Bus E (-) Low · **U0071** Vehicle Communication Bus E (-) High · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a MAF Sensor Works: Hot-Wire Airflow Explained](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0069/>

