

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0070

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0070

Vehicle Communication Bus E (-) Low

U0070 means the vehicle's communication network has detected a low voltage condition on the negative side of Communication Bus E, which is a dedicated data bus used by certain control modules. The computer that monitors this bus has seen the bus-minus wire pulled below its normal idle voltage, indicating a short to ground or a failed transceiver on one of the modules attached to that bus.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The warning light (malfunction indicator lamp) illuminates, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- One or more control modules may stop communicating, causing unrelated systems to set their own codes.
- Intermittent operation of features controlled by modules on Bus E, such as lighting or body functions.
- The scan tool may fail to communicate with certain modules or show them as 'no response'.
- A no-start condition if the affected bus is part of the powertrain network.
- Multiple warning lights on the dashboard if several modules share the bus.

Common causes, most likely first

- A short to ground on the Bus E minus wire, often from chafed insulation or a pinched harness.
- A failed control module on Bus E that is dragging the bus-minus line low internally.
- Corroded or loose connector terminals at a module or inline harness connector on the Bus E circuit.
- Water intrusion into a connector or module causing a conductive path to ground.
- Aftermarket accessories improperly tapped into the bus wiring, creating a partial short.
- A faulty transceiver inside one of the modules on the bus, even if the module otherwise appears to work.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all stored codes, then check which modules are communicating and which are not.
- 2 Obtain the vehicle-specific wiring diagram for Bus E and identify all modules and connectors on that bus.
- 3 Visually inspect the Bus E minus wire and its connectors for damage, corrosion, or signs of water intrusion.
- 4 Disconnect modules one at a time from the bus and recheck bus voltage to see if the low condition clears.
- 5 Measure resistance from the Bus E minus wire to chassis ground with all modules disconnected to check for a short.
- 6 Repair any chafed wire, replace corroded terminals, or replace the module that is pulling the bus low.
- 7 Clear codes and verify communication on Bus E with a scan tool before returning the vehicle.

Bus E faults that fool good technicians

- A module that sets U0070 is often not the faulty module; the code is stored by any module that sees the bus-minus line low, so the culprit is usually elsewhere on the bus.
Aftermarket alarms, remote starters, or phone chargers spliced into bus wiring are a frequent cause of a low bus-minus condition that only appears when the accessory is powered.
- The bus-minus wire can read normal voltage with a voltmeter while still being intermittently shorted, so a wiggle test and a lab scope are more reliable than a static voltage check.
- A failed module may still communicate on other buses and appear healthy on a scan tool, yet its internal transceiver can drag Bus E minus low and take down the whole bus.
Water intrusion into a connector behind a kick panel or under a seat is a common hidden cause that only shows up after rain or a car wash.

Can I keep driving with U0070?

If the vehicle starts, runs, and drives normally, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid long trips and expect that some electrical features may not work. If the engine cranks but does not start or multiple warning lights are on, have the vehicle towed because the bus fault may disable safety or powertrain systems.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and module communication capability
- Digital multimeter
- Automotive lab scope
- Vehicle-specific wiring diagram
- Terminal pick and wire repair kit



Reading U0070

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

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0071** Vehicle Communication Bus E (-) High · **U0072** Vehicle Communication Bus E (shorted to Bus E) · **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/u0070/>

