

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0074

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0074

Control Module Communication Bus "B" Off

U0074 means the control module that monitors the second communication bus, often called Bus B, has detected that the bus is electrically off or not responding. The module is not reporting a single failed component; it is telling you that the entire data network it relies on has gone silent or lost its voltage bias.

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 lamps
- The engine may start and run, but other modules such as the transmission or body control module may be unresponsive
- Intermittent or complete failure of features like power windows, radio, or climate control that share the bus
- A no-start condition if the bus carries critical immobilizer or powertrain messages
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light when the fault is stored in a module that is not currently needed

Common causes, most likely first

- A short to ground or short to voltage on one of the two bus wires, often caused by chafed wiring or a pinched harness
- An open circuit in the bus wiring, such as a broken wire or a disconnected connector, that breaks the network into isolated segments
- A failed control module that is holding the bus voltage low or high and preventing all other modules from communicating
- Corroded or loose terminals at any module connector on the bus, especially in areas exposed to moisture
- A blown fuse or missing power/ground at a module that is supposed to keep the bus alive
- Aftermarket electronics improperly tapped into the bus wiring, introducing noise or a short



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and read all modules to see which modules are online and which are missing, then record the exact network topology for the vehicle
- 2 Inspect the bus wiring at every module connector for corrosion, pushed pins, or loose terminals, starting with the modules that are offline
- 3 Measure resistance between the two bus wires with the battery disconnected; a reading far from the specified value indicates a short or open
- 4 Check for shorts to ground or power on each bus wire with a multimeter while wiggling harness sections that are known to flex
- 5 Disconnect modules one at a time to see if the bus voltage returns to normal, which isolates a failed module that is dragging the network down
- 6 Repair or replace the damaged section of harness, then clear the code and verify that all modules communicate reliably

What a silent bus really tells you

- A module that sets U0074 is often not the faulty part; it is the messenger reporting that another module or the wiring has taken the bus offline.
- The bus is a differential pair, so a single chafed wire can short the entire network even though every module still has power and ground.
- Aftermarket alarms, remote starters, and dash cameras are frequently tapped into bus wiring and can introduce the exact short or noise that sets this code.
- A battery that is weak or a charging system that is overcharging can cause modules to drop offline intermittently, so always verify system voltage before chasing wiring.
- Some vehicles isolate sections of the bus with a gateway module, and a failed gateway can set U0074 in multiple modules even though the main bus is healthy.

Can I keep driving with U0074?

If the vehicle starts and runs normally, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid long trips and expect that other systems may stop working without warning. If the engine will not start or multiple safety systems are disabled, do not drive and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional module communication capability
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage measurement
- Wiring diagram and connector pinout for the specific vehicle
- Breakout box or back-probe pins for testing module connectors
- Test light or logic probe for quick bus voltage checks



Reading U0074

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

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0073** CAN Bus A Communication Bus Off · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Padlock Works: Pin Tumbler Lock in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0074/>

