

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0079

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0079

Vehicle Communication Bus B (+) Low

U0079 is a generic network communication code indicating that the vehicle's control modules have detected a low voltage condition on Communication Bus B, which is the positive side of a Controller Area Network (CAN) data bus. The computer sets this code when the bus voltage stays below the expected threshold for a calibrated period, typically because of a wiring fault, a failed module, or a short to ground.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) or a dedicated communication warning light
- Multiple unrelated warning lights on the dashboard, such as ABS, traction control, and airbag
- Intermittent or complete failure of modules on the affected bus, leading to inoperative features like power windows or climate control
- The engine may start and run normally, or it may crank but not start if the bus fault disables the powertrain control module
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent or confined to a non-critical module

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A short to ground or chafed wire on the CAN Bus B positive circuit, often from rubbing against a metal bracket or passing through a damaged grommet
- 2 A failed control module that is internally shorting the bus positive line to ground, pulling the entire network low
- 3 Corroded or loose connector pins at a module or inline harness connector, increasing resistance and causing voltage drop
- 4 Water intrusion into a connector or module housing, leading to corrosion and a partial short on the bus
- 5 A faulty termination resistor inside a module, altering bus voltage levels and triggering the low-voltage detection
- 6 Aftermarket electronics improperly tapped into the CAN bus, such as alarm systems or fleet trackers, creating an unintended load



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all stored codes across every module to confirm U0079 is active and identify which modules are offline
- 2 Obtain the factory wiring diagram for the affected bus and locate the CAN Bus B positive circuit, then inspect for obvious damage, chafing, or corrosion
- 3 Measure resistance from the CAN Bus B positive wire to ground with the battery disconnected; a reading below specification indicates a short that must be traced
- 4 Disconnect modules one at a time while monitoring bus voltage or resistance to isolate a module that is internally shorting the bus
- 5 Repair any damaged wiring, replace corroded connector pins, and reseal connectors to prevent water intrusion
- 6 Clear the codes and perform a road test to verify the fault is resolved and no modules remain offline

What a low CAN bus voltage really means

- A low voltage on CAN Bus B does not automatically mean the bus wiring is faulty; a single module with an internal short can pull the entire bus low, so module isolation is often the fastest path to the culprit.
- Technicians frequently replace the module that is easiest to access rather than the one actually causing the short, so always disconnect modules one at a time and watch for the bus voltage to recover.
- Aftermarket accessories wired into the CAN bus are a common hidden cause, and the fault may only appear when the accessory is powered on or when the vehicle is in a specific operating mode.
- The code can be set by a low battery or charging system problem that causes modules to boot at different voltages, so check battery health and ground connections before condemning the bus.
- U0079 often accompanies other U-codes for individual modules, and the pattern of which modules are offline can point directly to the segment of the bus where the short is located.

Can I keep driving with U0079?

If the vehicle starts, runs, and drives normally with only the warning light on, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid long trips and do not tow a trailer. If multiple warning lights are on, the engine will not start, or safety systems like ABS and airbags are disabled, stop driving and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with enhanced manufacturer-specific software
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage measurement
- Factory wiring diagram for the affected vehicle
- Back-probing pins and connector release tools
- Battery load tester and charging system tester



Reading U0079

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

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0077** Vehicle Communication Bus B Off · **U0078** Vehicle Communication Bus B (+) Open · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Gyroscope Works: Gimbals and Precession](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0079/>

