

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0128

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0128

Lost Communication With Park Brake Control Module

U0128 means the vehicle's main computers have lost the controller area network (CAN) communication link with the park brake control module, the electronic unit that applies and releases the parking brake. The module that set the code detected that messages from the park brake module stopped arriving within the expected time window, so it flagged the missing node rather than a mechanical brake fault.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Network	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Lost communication with a control module

Symptoms you may notice

- Parking brake warning light or brake system message illuminated on the dashboard
- Electronic parking brake will not apply or release, or only works intermittently
- A chime or 'park brake fault' message appears when starting the vehicle
- Other dashboard warnings appear because several modules share the same CAN bus
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the brake still working normally
- Vehicle may refuse to release the parking brake automatically when shifting out of park

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged, corroded or disconnected wiring or connector at the park brake control module
- 2 Blown fuse or poor ground supplying power to the park brake control module
- 3 Failed park brake control module itself, often due to water or road salt intrusion
- 4 CAN bus wiring fault between the park brake module and the rest of the network
- 5 Low battery voltage or a weak charging system causing modules to drop offline
- 6 Corrosion or loose pins in a shared CAN splice or junction connector
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or poor previous repairs disturbing the network wiring



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for codes and record every stored and pending code before clearing anything
- 2 Check battery voltage and charging system output, then inspect the park brake module fuse and ground
- 3 Inspect the park brake control module connector and harness for corrosion, water intrusion and loose pins
- 4 Measure CAN bus resistance and voltage at the module connector to confirm the network is intact
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the harness while watching live data for the park brake module to reappear
- 6 If communication returns with a known-good module, replace and configure the park brake control module
- 7 Clear codes and verify the park brake applies and releases correctly through several drive cycles

Why the park brake module drops offline

- A dead or weak battery is a common cause of U0128 because the park brake module can drop off the network during cranking and never re-register until the code is cleared.
- Water intrusion into the park brake module or its connector, especially on vehicles with rear underbody-mounted units, often corrodes pins and causes intermittent communication loss.
- U0128 does not prove the park brake module is faulty; a single chafed CAN wire or a loose ground can set the same code while the module is perfectly healthy.
- Technicians sometimes replace the park brake module only to find the fault was a shared CAN splice or a poor ground, so always verify power, ground and bus integrity first.
- Because the park brake module shares the CAN bus with stability control and transmission modules, a network fault elsewhere can produce U0128 alongside unrelated codes.

Can I keep driving with U0128?

The vehicle is usually safe to drive if the parking brake still engages and releases, but avoid parking on steep inclines until the fault is repaired. If the electronic park brake will not release or the vehicle reports a brake fault, stop driving and have it inspected.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with full module and live data capability
- Digital multimeter for voltage, resistance and CAN bus checks
- Wiring diagram for the park brake control module circuit
- Trim removal tools to access module connectors
- Battery load tester or charging system tester



Reading U0128

- U** Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 1** Lost communication with a control module.
- 28** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

U0100 Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control · **U0122** Lost Communication With Vehicle Dynamics Control Module · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0128/>

