

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0130

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0130

Lost Communication With Steering Effort Control Module

U0130 means the vehicle's main computers have lost contact with the steering effort control module, the unit that varies steering assist based on speed and driving conditions. The code is set when a controller that expects regular status messages from that module stops receiving them within the allowed time window, usually because of a wiring fault, a power or ground problem, or a failed module.

SYSTEM Network	CODE TYPE Generic (all makes)	SEVERITY Medium	FIX DIFFICULTY Professional	AREA Lost communication with a control module
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Symptoms you may notice

- Steering assist may default to a fixed heavy or light effort, making the wheel feel unusually stiff or vague
- A steering warning light or stability control warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Other modules may log communication codes at the same time, pointing to a shared network problem
- The steering may feel normal on some drives and change character intermittently as communication drops in and out
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, because the module can fail to report while the assist still works

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged, corroded or loose wiring and connectors in the steering effort control module circuit
- Blown fuse or poor power or ground connection feeding the steering effort control module
- Failed steering effort control module itself, often after water intrusion or heat damage
- CAN bus (Controller Area Network) communication fault, including a shorted or open data line shared with other modules
- Low battery voltage or a weak charging system causing modules to drop offline intermittently
- Aftermarket accessories or poor previous repairs tapping into the network wiring



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for codes and record every communication code before clearing anything, since U0130 rarely travels alone
- 2 Check battery voltage and charging output, then inspect the steering effort control module fuse and ground points
- 3 Visually inspect the module connectors and harness for corrosion, chafing, water intrusion and loose pins
- 4 Perform a voltage drop and continuity test on the module's power and ground circuits under load
- 5 Test the CAN data lines for correct resistance and for shorts to power or ground with the battery disconnected
- 6 If wiring and power checks pass, substitute a known-good module or perform a bidirectional communication test to confirm the module is at fault
- 7 After repair, clear codes and verify communication returns and stays stable through a full drive cycle

Why U0130 is often a wiring fault

- A steering effort control module that has lost power or ground will set U0130 even though the module itself is healthy, so power and ground checks come before replacement every time.
- Water intrusion into connectors near the steering rack or underbody is a common hidden cause that looks like a failed module until the pins are inspected closely.
- A weak battery or failing alternator can make modules drop off the network intermittently, setting U0130 alongside unrelated communication codes that clear after a charge.
- U0130 does not always mean the steering assist is dead; many vehicles keep a default assist mode, so the car may drive almost normally while the code is stored.
- Aftermarket alarms, radios or trailer wiring spliced into the CAN bus are a frequent misdiagnosis trap because the fault appears only after the accessory is installed.

Can I keep driving with U0130?

The vehicle is usually safe to drive to a shop because most systems default to a fixed steering assist, but avoid high-speed driving and heavy parking manoeuvres if the steering feels stiff or unpredictable. If the wheel becomes very hard to turn or other warning lights appear, stop driving and have it towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with full module and bidirectional communication capability
- Digital multimeter for voltage, resistance and continuity testing
- Wiring diagram and connector pinout for the steering effort control module circuit
- Fuse puller and test light for quick power checks
- Battery load tester or charging system analyzer



Reading U0130

- 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.
- 30** 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 · **U0126** Lost Communication With Steering Angle Sensor Module · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Manual Transmission Works: Four-Speed Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0130/>

