

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0156

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0156

Lost Communication With Information Center 'A'

U0156 is a generic network communication code indicating that a control module on the vehicle's Controller Area Network (CAN) bus has lost contact with the Information Center 'A' module, which is typically the display or driver information interface. The computer detected that expected periodic messages from that module stopped arriving within a set time window, so it flagged the missing node as offline.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The information center display may be blank, frozen, or showing dashes instead of normal data
- Multiple warning lights or a 'service vehicle soon' message may appear because other modules cannot share data with the display
- Some driver-selectable features such as trip computer, settings menus, or clock adjustments may stop responding
- The radio or other infotainment functions may behave erratically if they share the same network segment
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the information center is not critical to vehicle operation

Common causes, most likely first

- A blown fuse or poor power/ground connection at the Information Center 'A' module
- Damaged or chafed CAN bus wiring between the information center and the network backbone
- Corroded or loose connector pins at the information center or at a network splice pack
- Internal failure of the Information Center 'A' module itself
- A shorted or failed module on the same CAN segment pulling the bus down and preventing communication
- Low battery voltage or a failing charging system causing intermittent network dropouts
- Aftermarket accessories wired into the CAN bus or information center circuit causing interference



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify battery voltage and charging system output, then clear the code and test-drive to see if U0156 returns
- 2 Check all fuses and grounds serving the Information Center 'A' module using the vehicle's wiring diagram
- 3 Inspect the module connector and nearby harness for corrosion, loose pins, or chafed wires
- 4 Measure CAN bus resistance and voltage at the information center connector to confirm the bus is healthy
- 5 Perform a network integrity test with a scan tool to see whether other modules also report the information center as offline
- 6 If the bus and power are good, substitute a known-good Information Center 'A' module or bench-test the original
- 7 Repair or replace the faulty wiring, connector, or module and recheck communication after clearing codes

What a missing information center really means

- A dead information center often takes down shared data for other modules, so unrelated warning lights can appear and send you chasing the wrong system.
The code names the module that stopped talking, but the actual fault is frequently a blown fuse or corroded ground rather than the display unit itself.
 - A single shorted module on the CAN bus can mimic a failed information center by disrupting communication for every node on that segment.
 - Aftermarket stereos, alarms, or phone chargers tapped into the wrong wire can introduce noise that makes the information center drop off intermittently.
- Low battery voltage during cranking is a common cause of stored U0156 codes that never return once the battery is charged or replaced.

Can I keep driving with U0156?

The vehicle usually remains drivable because the information center is not a safety-critical module, but you should avoid relying on its display for speed, fuel, or warning information. Have the fault diagnosed soon, especially if other warning lights or drivability issues appear alongside it.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with CAN network diagnostics
- Digital multimeter
- Vehicle-specific wiring diagram
- Fuse puller and test light
- Terminal pick and contact cleaner



Reading U0156

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

Often seen with

U0140 Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster · **U0155** Lost Communication With Body Control Module · **U0164** Lost Communication With HVAC Control Module · **U0184** Lost Communication With Radio · **U0198** Lost Communication With Telematic Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a MAP Sensor Works: Engine Vacuum and Load](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0156/>

