

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0294

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0294

Lost Communication with Powertrain Control Module B

U0294 is a generic network communication code indicating that one or more control modules have lost contact with Powertrain Control Module B (PCM-B), a secondary powertrain controller used on some vehicles. The detecting module has tried to exchange data with PCM-B over the Controller Area Network (CAN) bus and received no valid response within the allowed time.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) with no obvious change in how the vehicle drives
- Multiple warning lights on the dashboard, such as stability control, transmission, or all-wheel-drive lamps, because several modules share the same bus
- Reduced power, limp-home mode, or a transmission that defaults to a single gear if PCM-B handles those functions
- Crank-no-start or intermittent stalling when PCM-B is the module responsible for fuel or spark enablement
- Erratic operation of accessories that rely on shared network data, such as the speedometer, tachometer, or climate controls
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light when the lost module is not critical to engine operation

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A weak or failed battery, corroded terminals, or poor grounds that drop bus voltage below the threshold PCM-B needs to communicate
- 2 Open, chafed, or corroded wiring in the CAN bus circuit between the detecting module and PCM-B
- 3 A loose, backed-out, or corroded connector pin at PCM-B or at an intermediate inline connector
- 4 Internal failure of PCM-B, often caused by water intrusion, heat damage, or a failed internal power supply
- 5 A shorted or failed CAN transceiver inside another module on the same bus that pulls the network down
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or poor previous repairs that splice into or load the CAN wiring
- 7 A blown fuse or relay supplying power to PCM-B, leaving it unpowered and silent on the bus



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a full battery and charging system test, including load testing and checking terminal cleanliness and tightness
- 2 Scan all modules for communication codes and record which modules are online and which are missing to map the affected bus segment
- 3 Inspect and wiggle-test the connectors and harness at PCM-B and at any inline connectors, looking for corrosion, pushed pins, or chafing
- 4 Measure CAN bus voltage and resistance at the diagnostic connector to confirm the bus is not shorted or open before condemning a module
- 5 Check the fuses and relays that feed PCM-B and verify power and ground at the module connector with a multimeter
- 6 If wiring and power are good, substitute a known-good PCM-B or perform a module communication test to confirm internal failure
- 7 After any repair, clear the codes and verify communication with PCM-B returns and stays stable through a road test

Why a silent module is not always a dead module

- A low or failing battery is one of the most common causes of U0294, because PCM-B may drop off the bus during cranking while every other module stays online, leading technicians to replace a healthy module.
- The code does not prove PCM-B is faulty; a single shorted CAN transceiver in an unrelated module can pull the entire bus down and make PCM-B appear missing.
- Water intrusion into a footwell or cowl area often corrodes the connector at PCM-B long before the module itself fails, so inspect for dampness and green crust on pins.
- Aftermarket alarms, remote starters, and dash cameras spliced into CAN wiring frequently disturb bus voltage and set communication codes that disappear once the accessory is removed.
- Some vehicles use PCM-B only for specific functions such as transmission control or hybrid coordination, so the engine may run normally while the code is stored, masking a serious drivability fault.

Can I keep driving with U0294?

If the engine starts and runs normally and only the warning light is on, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid long trips and heavy load. If the vehicle is in limp mode, stalls, or will not start, stop driving and have it towed because PCM-B may control critical powertrain functions.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with full module communication and live data capability
- Digital multimeter with CAN bus voltage and resistance measurement
- Wiring diagram and connector pinout for the affected vehicle
- Battery load tester and charging system tester
- Back-probe kit and terminal pick tools for connector inspection
- Oscilloscope for viewing CAN bus waveform integrity

Reading U0294

U	Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
2	Lost communication with a control module.
94	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 · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster · **U0293** Lost Communication with Hybrid Vehicle Control System · **U0295** Lost Communication with Power Steering Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Drive-by-Wire Works: Electronic Throttle Body](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0294/>

