

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0408

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0408

Invalid Data Received From Throttle Actuator Control Module

U0408 is a communication fault where one or more control modules receive data from the throttle actuator control module that the network considers invalid or implausible. The throttle actuator control module is responsible for operating the electronic throttle body, and when its broadcast data fails plausibility checks, the receiving modules set this code and typically illuminate the warning light.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Network	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Invalid data received from a module

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or electronic throttle control warning light
- Reduced engine power or limp-home mode with limited throttle response
- Rough or erratic idle quality
- Hesitation or stumble during acceleration
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the fault is intermittent
- Multiple unrelated warning lights if the throttle actuator control module shares a network segment with other modules

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Corroded, loose, or damaged wiring and connectors at the throttle actuator control module or throttle body
- 2 Failing throttle actuator control module or electronic throttle body assembly
- 3 Low or unstable battery voltage causing modules to broadcast corrupt data
- 4 CAN bus communication faults such as chafed wiring, poor grounds, or failed terminating resistors
- 5 Software or calibration issues in the throttle actuator control module requiring reflash
- 6 Water intrusion into the throttle body connector or module housing
- 7 Aftermarket electronic throttle controllers or piggyback devices interfering with network data



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a full scan of all modules and record every stored, pending, and permanent code before clearing anything
- 2 Inspect the throttle body and throttle actuator control module connectors for corrosion, water intrusion, and loose pins
- 3 Check battery voltage and charging system output, as low voltage commonly corrupts module data
- 4 Measure CAN bus resistance and verify communication integrity between the throttle actuator control module and other modules
- 5 Check grounds and power feeds to the throttle actuator control module for voltage drop
- 6 If wiring and power are good, substitute a known-good throttle body or module and recheck for the code
- 7 After repair, clear codes and perform a throttle relearn or idle relearn procedure as required by the manufacturer

Why U0408 is often a wiring fault

- This code frequently sets because of a poor connection at the throttle body connector rather than a failed throttle actuator control module, so inspect terminals before condemning parts.
- Low battery voltage or a weak charging system can cause the throttle actuator control module to broadcast invalid data, setting U0408 without any hard fault in the module itself.
- Aftermarket throttle controllers and piggyback tuners that tap into the pedal or throttle wiring are a common cause of invalid data codes on the network.
- U0408 does not always mean the throttle actuator control module is faulty; it can be set by a receiving module that misinterprets valid data due to its own communication fault.
- A throttle body that is mechanically sticking or carbon-fouled can cause the actuator control module to report implausible position data, triggering this code even when the electronics are healthy.

Can I keep driving with U0408?

If the vehicle is in limp-home mode or the throttle response is erratic, avoid driving and have it towed because reduced power can be unsafe in traffic. If the light is on but the car drives normally, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid hard acceleration and long trips until the fault is diagnosed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with full module scanning capability
- Digital multimeter for voltage and resistance checks
- CAN bus test tool or oscilloscope for network diagnostics
- Basic hand tools for connector and component access
- Battery load tester and charging system tester
- Manufacturer service information for throttle relearn procedures



Reading U0408

- U** Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 4** Invalid data received from a module.
- 08** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0121 Throttle Position Sensor A Circuit Range/Performance · **P2135** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor A/B Voltage Correlation · **P2138** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor D/E Voltage Correlation · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0401** Invalid Data Received From ECM/PCM

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Crank and Cam Position Sensors Work](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0408/>

