

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0533

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0533

Invalid Data Received From Side Obstacle Detection Control Module A

U0533 means the vehicle's main computer network has received invalid or missing data from the side obstacle detection control module A, which is the computer that watches the blind spots on one side of the car. The fault is set when the module's messages are absent, corrupted, or out of range on the communication bus, not when a sensor itself has failed.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Network	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Professional	Network communication

Symptoms you may notice

- A blind spot monitoring or side obstacle warning light stays on or flashes
- The driver information center shows a message such as 'Side Detection System Unavailable'
- The blind spot warning indicators in the mirrors stop illuminating when a vehicle approaches
- The lane change assist or rear cross traffic alert features become inoperative
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the system simply disabled
- Intermittent warnings that appear in wet weather or after a car wash

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Corroded, loose, or water-intruded electrical connector at the side obstacle detection module
- 2 Damaged or chafed wiring harness between the module and the network, often behind a bumper cover
- 3 Failed side obstacle detection control module A due to internal electronics or water damage
- 4 Low or unstable battery voltage causing the module to drop off the communication bus
- 5 A fault in the controller area network (CAN) bus wiring or a failed terminating resistor affecting data integrity
- 6 Aftermarket accessories or improper repairs that disturb the module's power, ground, or bus wiring
- 7 Software or calibration corruption in the module after a battery replacement or jump start



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for related communication and body codes, and record freeze-frame data before clearing anything
- 2 Inspect the side obstacle detection module connector for corrosion, water intrusion, and bent pins, then clean and reseat it
- 3 Check battery voltage and perform a voltage drop test on the module's power and ground circuits
- 4 Trace and wiggle-test the harness between the module and the network while watching live data for dropouts
- 5 Measure CAN bus resistance and check for shorts to ground or battery voltage on the bus wires
- 6 If wiring and power are good, substitute a known-good module of the same part number to confirm the fault
- 7 After repair, clear codes and perform any required calibration or initialization of the side obstacle detection system

What the side obstacle module code really means

- U0533 is a communication fault, so replacing the side obstacle sensor or radar unit without checking the connector and wiring first is a common and expensive misdiagnosis.
- Water intrusion into the module or its connector behind the rear bumper is a frequent cause that only shows up after rain or a car wash, so inspect for moisture trails and green corrosion.
- A weak battery or a recent jump start can set this code because the module boots up with low voltage and fails to report valid data on the bus.
- The code can be stored by a fault in a completely different module that shares the same bus segment, so always check for other U-codes before condemning module A.
- Some vehicles require a calibration drive after any module replacement or battery disconnect, and skipping it leaves the system inoperative even with the code cleared.

Can I keep driving with U0533?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the side obstacle system simply defaults to off, but you should not rely on blind spot monitoring until the fault is repaired. Avoid extended driving with the warning active if the same bus also carries safety-critical modules, and have the fault diagnosed promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with manufacturer-level module access and live data
- Digital multimeter with min/max recording
- CAN bus breakout box or back-probe kit
- Trim removal tools for bumper cover access
- Battery load tester
- Wiring diagram for the side obstacle detection circuit



Reading U0533

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

Often seen with

U0122 Lost Communication With Vehicle Dynamics Control Module · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster · **U0532** Invalid Data Received From Rain Sensing Module · **U0534** Invalid Data Received From Side Obstacle Detection Control M · **U3000** Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Misfire Detection Works: Crankshaft Speed](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0533/>

