

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0537

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0537

Invalid Data Received From Column Lock Module

The U0537 code means the vehicle's main computer received data from the column lock module that it judged invalid or corrupted. The computer detected a message that did not match expected values or timing, so it flagged the module's data as unreliable.

SYSTEM Network	CODE TYPE Generic (all makes)	SEVERITY Medium	FIX DIFFICULTY Intermediate	AREA Network communication
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Symptoms you may notice

- The steering column lock may fail to engage or disengage, leaving the steering wheel locked or unlocked unexpectedly.
- A warning light on the dashboard, often the anti-theft or steering lock indicator, may illuminate.
- The engine may not start because the column lock module is part of the immobilizer circuit.
- In some cases, the driver may notice no symptoms besides the warning light.
- Intermittent electrical issues, such as the column lock motor running longer than normal or clicking repeatedly.
- Other modules may set communication or immobilizer-related codes, causing multiple warning lights.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A weak or failing battery, causing low voltage to the column lock module and corrupted data transmission.
- 2 Corroded, loose, or damaged wiring and connectors between the column lock module and the main computer.
- 3 A faulty column lock module itself, due to internal electronic failure or mechanical wear.
- 4 Water intrusion or physical damage to the column lock module or its harness.
- 5 A software glitch or outdated firmware in the column lock module or main computer.
- 6 Poor ground connection for the column lock module or the computer network.
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or improper previous repairs interfering with the data bus.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the battery voltage and state of charge; recharge or replace the battery if it is weak.
- 2 Inspect the wiring and connectors at the column lock module for corrosion, looseness, or damage; clean and secure as needed.
- 3 Perform a voltage drop test on the power and ground circuits to the column lock module.
- 4 Use a scan tool to check for other codes and to view live data from the column lock module, looking for erratic or missing signals.
- 5 Verify that the column lock module has the latest software and reflash or reprogram if required.
- 6 If all electrical checks pass, substitute a known-good column lock module to see if the code clears.
- 7 Clear the code and test-drive the vehicle to confirm the repair; if the code returns, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow chart.

Column lock data faults often misdiagnosed

- A weak battery is a common culprit because the column lock module may send corrupted data when voltage drops during cranking.
- The code can be set by a momentary communication glitch that leaves no permanent fault, so always check for related codes before replacing parts.
- Corrosion inside the column lock module connector is often overlooked because it is hidden behind the steering column trim.
- Aftermarket remote starters or alarm systems can interfere with the data bus and cause invalid data from the column lock module.
- The column lock module may share a ground with other modules; a bad ground can affect multiple systems and set this code.

Can I keep driving with U0537?

If the steering wheel is not locked and the engine starts normally, you can drive to a repair shop, but avoid turning off the engine in an unsafe location. If the steering lock engages unexpectedly or the engine will not start, do not drive and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery load tester
- Wire terminal cleaning tools
- Vehicle-specific service information for wiring diagrams



Reading U0537

- 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.
- 37** 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 · **U0536** Invalid Data Received From Lateral Acceleration Sensor Modul

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Helicopter Flies: Rotor and Tail in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0537/>

