

GENERIC · NETWORK

U05AB

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U05AB

Invalid Data Received From Engine Disconnect Clutch

U05AB is a generic communication fault indicating the engine control module (ECM) or another control module received invalid or missing data from the engine disconnect clutch system over the vehicle's controller area network (CAN) bus. The computer detected a message from the clutch control module that was implausible, out of range, or absent when expected, so it flagged the data as invalid rather than trusting it for drivability or safety calculations.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) with no noticeable change in vehicle behavior
- Harsh or delayed engagement when the vehicle transitions between engine and electric power
- A warning message on the dash indicating a fault with the hybrid or disconnect clutch system
- Reduced power or a limp-home mode if the fault affects torque management
- Intermittent stalling or refusal to restart after an auto-stop event
- Rough shifting or clunking noises during clutch engagement or disengagement

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Corroded, loose, or damaged wiring and connectors at the engine disconnect clutch actuator or its control module
- 2 Failed engine disconnect clutch position sensor or actuator solenoid
- 3 Low or contaminated fluid in the clutch actuation circuit, where hydraulically operated
- 4 Software calibration issue or corrupted adaptive learning values in the clutch control module
- 5 A failing clutch control module or its power/ground supply
- 6 CAN bus communication faults such as a shorted or open data line affecting the clutch module
- 7 Mechanical wear or binding in the disconnect clutch assembly itself, causing implausible position feedback



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record all stored codes, freeze-frame data, and module communication status before clearing anything
- 2 Inspect the engine disconnect clutch actuator connector and harness for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins, and repair as needed
- 3 Check the clutch control module power and ground circuits with a multimeter under load to rule out voltage drops
- 4 Verify CAN bus integrity by measuring resistance and checking for shorts or opens on the data lines to the clutch module
- 5 Perform a relearn or calibration procedure for the disconnect clutch using the scan tool if the hardware checks out
- 6 Test the clutch position sensor and actuator with bidirectional controls or a multimeter, replacing only confirmed faulty components
- 7 After repairs, clear codes and complete a road test that exercises engine start-stop and hybrid transitions to confirm the fault does not return

What the invalid data message really means

- U05AB often sets because the clutch control module sends a message with an out-of-range value, not because the clutch is mechanically broken, so chasing mechanical parts first wastes time and money.
- A weak or failing 12-volt battery can cause modules to drop offline momentarily and trigger this code, especially on vehicles with auto start-stop systems.
- Aftermarket electronic accessories tapped into the CAN bus or power circuits near the clutch module are a commonly overlooked cause of intermittent invalid data faults.
- The code can be stored in multiple modules, so always check all modules for related codes before assuming the clutch control module itself is at fault.
- A software update or recalibration issued by the manufacturer may resolve the issue without any parts replacement, so check for technical service bulletins before ordering hardware.

Can I keep driving with U05AB?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive to a repair shop if it behaves normally, but avoid aggressive acceleration, towing, or long trips until the fault is diagnosed. If the vehicle enters limp mode, refuses to restart, or shows a flashing warning, stop driving and arrange a tow.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and module communication capability
- Digital multimeter with min/max and duty-cycle functions
- CAN bus breakout box or oscilloscope for data line integrity checks
- Manufacturer-specific diagnostic software or subscription for relearn procedures
- Basic hand tools and terminal pick set for connector inspection and repair

Reading U05AB

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.
AB	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

U0100 Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0101** Lost Communication with TCM · **U0110** Lost Communication With TCM

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Manual Car Driving Simulator: Learn Clutch Control](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u05ab/>

