

GENERIC · NETWORK

U3002

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U3002

Vehicle Identification Number

U3002 is a generic body/control module code indicating that a module cannot read or validate the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) stored in its memory or broadcast on the vehicle network. The computer has detected a missing, corrupted, or mismatched VIN, often after a module replacement, battery service, or network communication fault.

SYSTEM

Network

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Network wiring and bus faults

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or service vehicle soon message
- No noticeable drivability symptoms in many cases, with only the warning light present
- Multiple unrelated warning lights or module communication errors appearing at once
- Inability to complete emissions or inspection readiness monitors
- Remote start, keyless entry, or other convenience features may stop working
- A no-start condition if the fault involves the engine control module or body control module

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A replacement module that was not programmed or configured with the correct VIN
- 2 Corrupted or erased VIN memory in a control module due to a voltage spike or failed flash
- 3 Poor electrical connection or damaged wiring on the controller area network (CAN) bus or other communication circuits
- 4 A faulty or mismatched body control module, engine control module, or other module that stores the VIN
- 5 Low battery voltage or a weak battery that caused a module to lose its memory during cranking or a jump start
- 6 Aftermarket or improperly installed electronic accessories that interfere with module communication
- 7 Internal failure of a module that stores or broadcasts the VIN



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and read all modules for stored codes, noting every module that reports U3002 or communication faults
- 2 Verify battery voltage and load-test the battery; charge or replace it if voltage is low before further diagnosis
- 3 Inspect and clean module grounds and connectors, and check for corrosion or damage on the CAN bus wiring
- 4 Use the scan tool to read the VIN stored in each module and compare it with the VIN on the vehicle's certification label
- 5 If a module shows a blank or incorrect VIN, perform the manufacturer's VIN programming or module setup procedure with a capable scan tool
- 6 Check for aftermarket accessories wired into the data bus and disconnect them temporarily to see if the code clears
- 7 Clear codes and perform a road test to confirm the fault does not return; if it does, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow for the affected module

VIN mismatches after module replacement

- A very common cause of U3002 is installing a used or salvage module that still contains the donor vehicle's VIN, which the network rejects as a mismatch.
- The code can be set by a weak battery during a jump start or a failed flash attempt, even when no module has actually failed.
- U3002 often appears alongside U0100 or U0155 when the real problem is a communication bus fault rather than a VIN storage issue.
- Some vehicles require a specific VIN learn or module configuration procedure after battery replacement, and skipping it can trigger this code.
- Do not assume the module is defective; verify power, ground, and bus integrity before replacing any module for this code.

Can I keep driving with U3002?

The vehicle is usually safe to drive if it starts and runs normally, but avoid long trips and do not ignore the warning because the fault can affect inspection readiness and some safety or convenience systems. If the engine stalls, refuses to start, or multiple warning lights appear, have the vehicle towed to a repair facility.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with module-level reading and VIN programming capability
- Digital multimeter for voltage and continuity checks
- Battery load tester
- Wiring diagram and connector pinout for the affected module
- Socket set and trim tools for accessing modules and grounds



Reading U3002

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

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster · **U0155** Lost Communication With Body Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Notebook: The Otto Cycle Explained](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u3002/>

