



U302C

Ignition Output Off/On/Start

This code indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an abnormal condition in the ignition output circuit, specifically related to the off, on, or start signal. The PCM monitors the ignition switch input and sets this code when the voltage signal does not match expected values for the current ignition state.

SYSTEM Network	CODE TYPE Generic (all makes)	SEVERITY Medium	FIX DIFFICULTY Intermediate	AREA Network wiring and bus faults
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Symptoms you may notice

- The engine may not start or may stall intermittently
- The check engine light is illuminated
- The ignition may not turn off properly, leaving accessories powered
- Intermittent no-crank or slow crank conditions
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty ignition switch
- 2 Wiring damage or corrosion in the ignition circuit
- 3 Poor connection at the PCM or ignition switch connector
- 4 Defective PCM (rare)
- 5 Blown fuse or fusible link in the ignition circuit
- 6 Aftermarket accessories improperly wired into the ignition circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify battery voltage and condition, as low voltage can cause false codes
- 2 Inspect ignition switch and related fuses for obvious damage or corrosion
- 3 Check wiring and connectors between the ignition switch and PCM for continuity and shorts
- 4 Test the ignition switch operation with a multimeter to confirm proper voltage signals in each position
- 5 If wiring and switch are good, test the PCM inputs and outputs according to manufacturer procedures
- 6 Replace faulty components as needed and clear the code to verify the repair



Ignition Switch Circuit Diagnostics

- A common oversight is assuming the ignition switch is bad when the actual problem is a corroded connector or chafed wire hidden under the dash.
- Aftermarket alarms or remote starters tapped into the ignition circuit often cause this code due to improper splicing.
- The code can set intermittently if the ignition switch is worn internally, making contact only in certain positions.
- Always check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) for your specific vehicle, as some models have known ignition switch issues.

Can I keep driving with U302C?

If the vehicle starts and runs normally, you can drive it to a repair shop, but avoid turning the engine off if you suspect the ignition switch may not restart it. If the engine stalls or fails to start, do not drive and seek immediate assistance.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wiring diagram for the vehicle
- Basic hand tools

Reading U302C

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.
2C	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P2534 Ignition Switch Run/Start Position Circuit Low · **P2535** Ignition Switch Run/Start Position Circuit High · **U3000** Control Module · **U3001** Control Module Improper Shutdown Performance · **U3003** Battery Voltage

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Cutaway: Intake to Exhaust](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u302c/>

