

GENERIC · NETWORK

U353C

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U353C

High Voltage System Interlock Circuit M High

U353C is a manufacturer-specific body code indicating that the high-voltage system interlock circuit, specifically the 'M' loop, has been detected at a voltage higher than the expected range. The vehicle's control module monitors this safety circuit and sets the code when the signal voltage exceeds the calibrated threshold, typically indicating a short to voltage or an open circuit in the interlock wiring.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- High-voltage system warning light illuminated on the dashboard
- Vehicle may refuse to start or enter 'Ready' mode, especially in electric and hybrid models
- Reduced power or limp-home mode due to high-voltage system shutdown
- Audible chime or message indicating a high-voltage fault
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or chafed interlock wiring shorted to a higher voltage source
- Faulty high-voltage interlock connector or terminal with poor pin tension
- Failed high-voltage component (e.g., battery pack, inverter, or motor) internal interlock switch
- Corrosion or moisture intrusion in the interlock circuit connector
- Control module internal fault misreading the interlock voltage
- Aftermarket accessories improperly wired into the high-voltage system

How to diagnose and fix it

- Scan all modules for related codes and record freeze-frame data to understand when the fault occurs
- Inspect the high-voltage interlock circuit wiring and connectors for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- Measure voltage on the interlock circuit at the control module and compare to manufacturer specifications
- Disconnect and isolate high-voltage components one by one to see if the voltage reading normalizes
- Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the control module
- Repair or replace damaged wiring, connectors, or the faulty high-voltage component as needed
- Clear codes and perform a road test to verify the repair



Interlock Circuit Voltage Traps to Avoid

- A short to voltage in the interlock circuit can be caused by a nearby 12-volt accessory wire rubbing against the interlock harness, which is often overlooked during visual inspection.
- The 'M' circuit designation varies by manufacturer; some use it for a specific interlock loop, so always consult the factory wiring diagram for the exact vehicle.
- High-voltage interlock circuits are designed to be low-voltage (typically 5V or 12V) for safety, so a 'high voltage' code refers to the signal, not the main battery pack voltage.
- Intermittent faults often occur only when the vehicle is exposed to vibration or temperature extremes, making them hard to reproduce in the shop.
- Replacing a high-voltage component without checking the interlock circuit voltage first can lead to repeat failures if the root cause is a wiring short.

Can I keep driving with U353C?

Do not continue driving with this code active, as the high-voltage system may be compromised and could shut down unexpectedly. Have the vehicle towed to a qualified service facility for diagnosis and repair.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with manufacturer-specific software
- Digital multimeter with high-voltage safety rating
- Factory service information and wiring diagrams
- Insulation tester (megohmmeter) for high-voltage circuits
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) for high-voltage work

Reading U353C

U	Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
3	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
5	Network communication.
3C	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0A0D High Voltage System Interlock Circuit A High · **P0AA6** Hybrid/EV Battery Voltage System Isolation Fault
 · **U0111** Lost Communication With Battery Energy Control Module 'A' · **U353B** High Voltage System Interlock Circuit M Low · **U353D** High Voltage System Interlock Circuit N



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Helicopter Flight Simulator: Learn the Three Controls](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u353c/>

