

P0903: CLUTCH ACTUATOR CIRCUIT HIGH

OVERVIEW

Severity	:	<div><div>Medium</div></div>
DIY Difficulty Level	:	<div><div>Intermediate</div></div>
Repair Cost	:	\$400-\$1000
Can I Still Drive?	:	Yes

What Does The P0903 Code Mean?

OBD-II trouble code P0903 and related codes [P0900](#), and [P0901](#) are associated with the clutch actuator electrical circuit. This circuit is monitored by the Engine Control Module (ECM), the Power Control Module (PCM) or the Transmission Control Module (TCM) based on the specific vehicle.

The purpose of the clutch actuator circuit is to engage and disengage the clutch or clutches on a semi-automatic transmission. Based on the specific vehicle and the configuration, several sensors and associated components are required to accomplish this task. Some configurations incorporate two hydraulic clutches, one for even gears and another for odd gears. The number of gears may range from 6 to 9 on newer vehicles. Basically, this design facilitates gear changes that are smooth and seamless operating in the same manner as a fully automatic transmission.

When the ECM, PCM or TCM detects a high voltage or resistance condition in the clutch actuator circuit, code P0903 will be set and the check engine light or the transmission warning lamp will be illuminated.

What Are The Symptoms Of The P0903 Code?

Symptoms of a P0903 trouble code may include:

- Motor may not crank over
- Engine may stall while driving
- Transmission may be placed into a limp mode

- Transmission may be stuck in one gear
- Transmission warning lamp illuminated
- Check engine light illuminated

What Are The Potential Causes Of The P0903 Code?

Causes for this P0903 code may include:

- Defective clutch actuator
- Defective sensor or solenoid
- Faulty or damaged wiring
- Loose or defective control module ground strap
- Corroded, damaged or loose connector
- Defective fuse or fuse-able link (If applicable)
- Clutch master cylinder malfunction
- Defective ECM, PCM or TCM

How Can You Fix The P0903 Code?

Step 1

The first step in the troubleshooting process for any malfunction is to research the Technical Service Bulletins (TSB's) for the specific vehicle by year, model and power plant. In some circumstances, this can save a lot of time in the long run by pointing you in the right direction.

Step 2

The second step is to locate all of components associated with the clutch actuator circuit and look for obvious physical damage. Perform a thorough visual inspection to check the associated wiring for obvious defects such as scraping, rubbing, bare wires, or burn spots.

Step 3

Next is to check the connectors and connections for security, corrosion and damaged pins. This process must include all wiring connectors and connections to all sensors, solenoids, actuators and control modules. Consult the specific tech data for the vehicle to see if a fuse or fuse-able link is incorporated into the circuit.

Advanced Steps

The advanced steps become very vehicle specific and require the appropriate advanced equipment to perform accurately. These procedures require a digital multi meter and the specific technical references for the vehicle. Specific technical data will include troubleshooting charts and the

appropriate sequence to follow assisting you with an accurate diagnosis.

Voltage Checks

Voltage checks must be performed utilizing the specific troubleshooting guidelines for the vehicle to identify the proper sequence and the acceptable ranges for proper operation. This phase of the troubleshooting process will vary tremendously for different makes and models.

If this process identifies the absence of a power source or ground, continuity testing may be required to check the integrity of the wiring, connectors and other components. Continuity tests should always be performed with the power removed from the circuit and the normal readings for wiring and connections should be 0 ohms of resistance.

Resistance or no continuity is an indication of faulty wiring that is open or shorted and must be repaired or replaced. A continuity test from the ECM, PCM or TCM control to the frame will confirm the serviceability level of ground straps and ground wires. The presence of resistance is an indication of a loose connection or possible corrosion.

Severity Description

The severity of this code is normally moderate, but P0903 can be severe if the vehicle is not shifting properly that may cause damage to internal transmission components.

Reference Sources

[P0903 Clutch Actuator Circuit High](#), OBD-Codes.