

U0156: LOST COMMUNICATION WITH INFORMATION CENTER A

OVERVIEW

Severity	:	High
DIY Difficulty Level	:	Intermediate
Repair Cost	:	\$75-\$250
Can I Still Drive?	:	Yes (Short-term only)

What Does The U0156 Code Mean?

This code means that the Information Center "A" (IC-A) and other control modules on the vehicle are not communicating with each other. The circuit most often used to communicate with is known as Controller Area Network bus communications, or simply put, CAN bus.

Without this CAN bus, control modules cannot exchange information, and your scan tool may not be able to get information from the vehicle, depending on which circuit is affected.

The IC-A is typically located behind the dash, usually in the center of the vehicle. It receives inputs from a variety of sensors, some hardwired directly to it, some are sent over the bus communications system. These inputs allow the module to display information onto a centralized location for ease of viewing.

Troubleshooting steps may vary depending upon manufacturer, type of communications system, number of wires and wire colors in the communication system.

What Are The Symptoms Of The U0156 Code?

Symptoms of a U0156 engine code may include:

- Information Center A displaying no information / blank screen

What Are The Potential Causes Of The U0156 Code?

Typically the causes for this code to set are:

- Open in the CAN bus + circuit
- Open in the CAN bus – circuit
- Short to power in either CAN bus circuit
- Short to ground in either CAN bus circuit
- No power or ground to HUD module
- Rarely – faulty control module

How Can You Fix The U0156 Code?

Step 1

A good starting point is always to check for technical service bulletins (TSB) for your particular vehicle. Your issue may be a known issue with a known fix put out by the manufacturer and can save you time and money during diagnosis.

First, note if there are any other diagnostic fault codes. If any of them are bus communication related or battery / ignition related, diagnose them first. Misdiagnosis has been known to occur if you diagnose the U0156 code before any of the basic codes have been thoroughly diagnosed and dismissed.

If your scan tool can access fault codes and the only one you get from other modules is the U0156, try to access to the IC-A. If you can access codes from the IC-A, then the U0156 code is either intermittent or a memory code. If unable to access the IC-A, then the U0156 code that the other modules are setting is active, and the problem is there now.

Step 2

The most common failure is loss of power or ground to the IC-A.

Check all fuses that power up the IC-A module on this vehicle. Check all grounds for the IC-A. Locate where the ground attaching points are on the vehicle and make sure that these connections are clean and tight. If you have to, take them off, get a small wire bristle brush and baking soda/water solution and clean each one, both the connector and where it connects.

If any repairs were made, clear the diagnostic trouble codes from memory, and see if the U0156 code returns or if you are able to communicate with the IC-A module. If the code does not return or communication is re-established, then the fuses/connections were most likely your problem.

Step 3

If the code returns, locate the CAN bus communication connections on your vehicle, most importantly the IC-A connector, which is usually behind the dash. Disconnect the negative battery cable before unplugging the connector at the IC-A module. Once located, visually inspect the connectors and wiring. Look for scraping, rubbing, bare wires, burn spots or melted plastic.

Pull the connectors apart and carefully inspect the terminals (the metal parts) inside the connectors. See if they look burned or have a green tint indicating corrosion. Use electrical contact cleaner and a plastic bristle brush if cleaning of the terminals is needed. Let dry and apply dielectric silicone grease where the terminals contact.

Before connecting the connectors back to the IC-A, make these few voltage checks. You will need to have access to a digital volt-ohmmeter (DVOM). Verify that you have power and ground at the IC-A. Gain access to a wiring diagram and determine where the main powers and grounds come into the IC-A. Reconnect the battery before continuing, with the IC-A still disconnected.

Connect the red lead of your voltmeter to each B+ (battery voltage) supply coming into the IC-A connector and the black lead of your voltmeter to a good ground (if not sure, battery negative always works). You should see a reading of battery voltage. Verify that you have good grounds as well. Hook the red lead of your voltmeter to battery positive (B+) and the black lead to each ground circuit. Once again you should see battery voltage at each connection. If not, repair the power or ground circuit problem.

Step 4

Next, check the two communication circuits. Locate the CAN B+ (or MSCAN + circuit) and CAN B- (or MSCAN – circuit). With the black lead of your voltmeter connected to a good ground, connect the red lead to CAN B+. With the Key On, Engine Off, you should see about 0.5 volts and fluctuating slightly. Next, connect the red voltmeter lead to the CAN B- circuit. You should see approximately 4.4 volts and fluctuating slightly.

If all tests have passed and communication is still not possible, or you were unable to clear the U0156 fault code, the only thing left that can be done is to seek assistance from a trained automotive diagnostician, as this would indicate a failed IC-A. Most of these IC-As must be programmed, or calibrated to the vehicle to be installed correctly.

Severity Description

Severity in this case is always severe due to the safety issues that arise from the possibilities of a IC-A obstructing the driver's view.

Reference Sources

[U0156 Lost Communication With Information Center A](#), OBD-Codes.