

TECHNICAL BULLETIN (M22) ERASING/RESETTING OF FAULT CODES

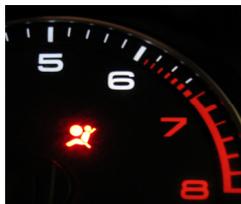
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Many vehicles now have multiple electronic control units (ECU's) that communicate with each other via the Controller Area Network (CAN) system.

When the ignition is switched on, the CAN checks the functionality of all systems and displays a warning light on the instrument panel. The warning lights can be as minor as a blown lamp, or in case of serious items such as the SRS, if there is a defect detected; the component is temporarily disabled by the main ECU.



Engine Check



Air bag light



Head Lamp Bulb

In addition to the warning lamp being displayed, fault codes are stored in the memory.

Fault codes are defined as “**Soft**” and “**Hard**” codes.

“**Soft Codes**” While these fault codes will still be stored, examination is not usually considered necessary. It is common for a vehicle to accumulate several soft fault codes during service intervals and these are normally ignored if the lamp is no longer illuminated. Reconnecting or replacing a damaged component causes the warning light to be extinguished.

“**Hard Codes**” These fault codes are those generated for critical items such as SRS deployment, ESC, ABS .etc and will generate a warning lamp that will have to be reset by a service technician using a diagnostic tool.

RECOMMENDATION

It has become common practice for repairers to quote for “resetting fault codes” irrespective of whether there is a current warning light active.

Assessors should only approve the resetting of “hard fault codes” that have a warning light still active and require access via a diagnostic tool.

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