

BMW · POWERTRAIN

**P1473**

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1473 · BMW

## Diagnostic Module Tank Leakage DM-TL Pump Current Plausibility

P1473 on BMW vehicles indicates that the Diagnostic Module Tank Leakage (DM-TL) pump current is outside the expected range during its self-test of the evaporative emission system. The engine control module monitors the pump's electrical current and flags this code when the current does not match the plausibility model, suggesting a faulty pump, wiring issue, or a leak that alters pump load.

SYSTEM

**Powertrain**

CODE TYPE

**BMW specific**

SEVERITY

**Medium**

FIX DIFFICULTY

**Intermediate**

AREA

**Auxiliary emission controls**

### Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- A slight fuel odor may be present if a leak exists in the EVAP system.
- Rough idle or hesitation in rare cases if the leak is large enough to affect fuel trims.
- The remote fuel filler flap may not release if the tank leakage module is faulty.
- In some models, a message indicating a fuel system fault may appear in the iDrive display.

### Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty DM-TL pump (tank leakage module) due to internal wear or contamination.
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring or connector at the DM-TL pump.
- 3 Leaking fuel filler cap or filler neck seal, causing the pump to work harder.
- 4 Cracked or disconnected EVAP hose or line, altering pump current draw.
- 5 Failed fuel tank pressure sensor providing incorrect feedback to the DM-TL module.
- 6 Software error in the DM-TL module requiring reprogramming.
- 7 Contamination or blockage in the pump's internal passages.



## How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of all EVAP hoses, connections, and the fuel filler cap for damage or looseness.
- 2 Use a scan tool to check for related fault codes and freeze-frame data to understand the conditions when P1473 set.
- 3 Test the DM-TL pump's electrical circuit: check for power, ground, and signal integrity at the pump connector.
- 4 Command the DM-TL pump on with a bidirectional scan tool and listen for operation; compare current draw to specifications.
- 5 Perform a smoke test on the EVAP system to locate any leaks that could affect pump current plausibility.
- 6 If the pump and wiring are good, check the fuel tank pressure sensor for proper operation and replace if faulty.
- 7 As a last step, reprogram the DM-TL module with the latest software if no hardware faults are found.

## DM-TL Pump Current Plausibility Explained

- A loose or aftermarket fuel cap is a frequent cause of this code because it changes the sealed volume the pump must pressurize, altering current draw.  
The DM-TL pump runs only under specific conditions (e.g., after key-off), so the code may not set during a short test drive; a complete drive cycle is needed.
- Corrosion at the pump connector is common on older BMWs and can mimic a failed pump, so always check the pins before replacing the module.
- This code can be set by a weak battery or low voltage during the pump's self-test, so verify battery health first.
- Replacing the DM-TL pump without checking for leaks often leads to a repeat failure because the new pump compensates for a leak until it exceeds current limits.

## Can I keep driving with P1473?

You can generally continue driving with P1473, but avoid topping off the fuel tank and have the EVAP system inspected soon to prevent potential fuel vapor leaks. If you smell fuel strongly, park the vehicle and seek professional help immediately.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and BMW software
- Digital multimeter
- Smoke machine for EVAP leak testing
- Basic hand tools (screwdrivers, socket set)
- Fuel cap tester



## Reading P1473

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (BMW): its meaning depends on the make.
- 4** Auxiliary emission controls.
- 73** The exact fault within that area.

## Often seen with

**P1470** EVAP Emission Control System LDP Circuit Electrical Malfunc · **P1471** EVAP Emission Control System LDP Circuit Short To B+ · **P1470** Pressure Control Flap Vacuum Transducer Y312 · **P1470** Leakage Diagnostic Pump Control Circuit Electrical · **P0442** EVAP System Leak Detected (Small) · **P0455** EVAP System Leak Detected (Large) · **P0456** Evaporative Emission System Leak Detected (very small leak)

## See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Inline-Four Engine X-Ray: Firing Order 1-3-4-2](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/bmw-p1473/>

