

BMW · POWERTRAIN

P1544

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1544 · BMW

Pedal Position Sensor

P1544 on BMW vehicles indicates that the engine control module (DME) has detected an implausible or missing signal from the pedal position sensor, which is part of the electronic accelerator pedal assembly. The computer compares the two redundant sensor signals inside the pedal and sets this code when they do not agree or when the voltage falls outside the expected range.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	BMW specific	Medium	Intermediate	Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or electronic throttle control warning lamp
- Reduced engine power or limp mode, often limiting throttle response
- Hesitation or stumble when pressing the accelerator pedal
- Unresponsive or delayed acceleration from a stop
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Worn or contaminated accelerator pedal position sensor tracks inside the pedal assembly
- 2 Corroded, loose, or damaged electrical connector at the pedal sensor
- 3 Chafed or broken wiring between the pedal sensor and the DME
- 4 Internal fault in the electronic accelerator pedal module
- 5 DME software issue or internal driver circuit fault (less common)
- 6 Water intrusion or debris interfering with the pedal mechanism



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Read all stored fault codes and freeze-frame data with a BMW-capable scan tool to confirm P1544 is current and not historical
- 2 Visually inspect the accelerator pedal connector and wiring for corrosion, pin damage, or chafing
- 3 Backprobe the pedal sensor signal wires and compare voltages to the manufacturer's specification while slowly pressing the pedal
- 4 Check the sensor reference voltage and ground circuits for drops or opens
- 5 If wiring and connectors are good, replace the accelerator pedal assembly with a known-good unit and clear adaptations
- 6 Clear the fault memory and perform a throttle adaptation reset using the scan tool
- 7 Road test the vehicle through several ignition cycles to verify the code does not return

Pedal Sensor Faults That Fool Technicians

- A low battery or voltage spike during cranking can set a false P1544, so always clear the code and retest before condemning the pedal.
- The pedal position sensor is a dual-track potentiometer, and a single worn track can cause an intermittent code that only appears during certain pedal angles.
- Water ingress through the bulkhead harness grommet often corrodes the pedal connector pins on older BMW models, mimicking a failed sensor.
- After replacing the pedal, some BMW models require a throttle adaptation reset with a factory-level scan tool, or the code will reappear immediately.
- A sticking or binding accelerator pedal mechanism can produce implausible sensor readings without any electrical fault, so check pedal free movement first.

Can I keep driving with P1544?

The vehicle may enter limp mode with reduced power, which can be dangerous in traffic, so limit driving to a safe location or workshop. Avoid aggressive acceleration and have the fault diagnosed promptly to prevent sudden loss of throttle response.

Tools that help

- BMW-capable OBD-II scan tool with live data
- Digital multimeter
- Backprobe pins or breakout box
- Torx and socket set for pedal assembly removal
- Wiring diagram for the accelerator pedal circuit



Reading P1544

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (BMW): its meaning depends on the make.
- 5** Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs.
- 44** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1545 Throttle Position Control Malfunction · **P1546** Boost Pressure Control Valve Short To B+ · **P1545** A/C Clutch Relay Control Circuit · **P1546** Air Conditioning (A/C) Clutch Feedback Circuit Low Voltage · **P1545** A/C Clutch Relay Control Circuit · **P1546** Air Conditioning (A/C) Clutch Feedback Circuit Low Voltage · **P1545** Pedal Position Sensor · **P1546** Pedal Position Sensor · **P0121** Throttle Position Sensor A Circuit Range/Performance · **P0221** Throttle Position Sensor B Circuit Range/Performance · **P2135** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor A/B Voltage Correlation

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How the PCV System Works: Crankcase Ventilation](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/bmw-p1544/>

