

CHRYSLER · POWERTRAIN

P1286

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1286 · Chrysler

Accelerator Pedal Position Sensor Supply Voltage Too High

P1286 on Chrysler vehicles means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a supply voltage to the accelerator pedal position (APP) sensor circuit that is higher than the expected 5-volt reference. The PCM monitors this reference voltage and sets the code when the signal exceeds a calibrated threshold, indicating a short to voltage or a faulty sensor.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Chrysler specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light (malfunction indicator lamp) with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced engine power or limp mode, limiting vehicle speed
- Poor throttle response or hesitation when accelerating
- Unexpected acceleration or high idle in some cases
- Transmission may shift erratically or stay in a single gear due to torque management

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty accelerator pedal position sensor (internal short to voltage)
- 2 Short to voltage on the 5-volt reference wire between the PCM and APP sensor
- 3 Corroded or damaged connector at the APP sensor or PCM
- 4 Damaged wiring harness causing a short to battery voltage
- 5 PCM internal failure (rare but possible)
- 6 Aftermarket electronic throttle control devices or poor installations interfering with the circuit



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for related codes and record freeze-frame data to understand when the fault occurs
- 2 Visually inspect the APP sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Measure the 5-volt reference voltage at the APP sensor connector with the key on; it should be close to 5 volts, not higher
- 4 Disconnect the APP sensor and check for battery voltage on the reference wire with the key on; if present, trace the short to voltage
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the harness while monitoring the APP voltage on a scan tool to identify intermittent shorts
- 6 If wiring and connectors are good, replace the accelerator pedal assembly with the integrated sensor
- 7 After repairs, clear codes and perform a throttle relearn procedure if required by the vehicle

Don't overlook the pedal assembly

- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the PCM when the actual fault is a chafed reference wire shorting to a nearby power wire in the harness.
- The APP sensor on many Chrysler vehicles is integrated into the accelerator pedal assembly and cannot be replaced separately, so a faulty sensor means replacing the whole pedal.
- Aftermarket throttle controllers or piggyback modules that tap into the APP circuit can cause this code by feeding voltage back into the reference line.
- A weak or failing battery or charging system can cause voltage spikes that trigger this code intermittently, so always check battery health first.
- This code can set alongside P2135 or P2138 (throttle position sensor correlation codes) when the APP signal is erratic, leading to confusion about the root cause.

Can I keep driving with P1286?

If the vehicle is in limp mode or has reduced power, avoid highway driving and get it diagnosed promptly. If only the check engine light is on and the car drives normally, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid aggressive acceleration.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific Chrysler model
- Back probe pins or breakout box
- Torx or socket set for pedal removal



Reading P1286

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (Chrysler): its meaning depends on the make.
- 2** Fuel and air metering (injector circuits).
- 86** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1285 Fuel Injection Air Control Valve Circuit Short To Ground · **P1285** Accelerator Pedal Positioning Sensor 2 Circuit · **P1285** Cylinder Head Over Temp Sensed · **P1285** Fuel Injection Pump Controller Always On · **P1285** Switching Solenoid for Air Assisted Injection Valves Bank 1 · **P2122** Accelerator Pedal Position Sensor D Circuit Low · **P2127** Accelerator Pedal Position Sensor E Circuit Low · **P2135** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor A/B Voltage Correlation · **P2138** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor D/E Voltage Correlation

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/chrysler-p1286/>

