

FORD · POWERTRAIN

P1218

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1218 · Ford

CID High

P1218 on Ford vehicles indicates that the powertrain control module has detected an out-of-range signal from the fuel injection control pressure sensor, specifically a high circuit condition. The computer sees a voltage or pressure reading that exceeds the expected maximum for the current operating conditions, which can affect fuel delivery and engine performance.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Ford specific	Medium	Intermediate	Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or stumbling during acceleration
- Reduced engine power or limp mode
- Hard starting or stalling, especially when cold
- Poor fuel economy or increased exhaust smoke

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty injection control pressure sensor
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness to the sensor
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the sensor connector
- 4 Failed injection pressure regulator or stuck valve
- 5 Contaminated or restricted oil passage affecting pressure
- 6 PCM software issue or internal fault (rare)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of the sensor and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 2 Check the sensor connector for tightness and clean any corrosion
- 3 Use a scan tool to read live data and compare injection control pressure to actual pressure
- 4 Test the sensor reference voltage and ground circuits with a multimeter
- 5 Check for technical service bulletins or PCM recalibration updates
- 6 Replace the injection control pressure sensor if faulty
- 7 Repair or replace damaged wiring or connectors as needed



Don't overlook the injection pressure regulator

- A sticking injection pressure regulator can cause high pressure readings that mimic a sensor failure, so test the regulator before replacing the sensor.
- Oil quality and level play a critical role in the injection control pressure system; low or dirty oil can trigger this code without any electrical fault.
- The code can set intermittently due to a loose connector that only loses contact during engine vibration or temperature changes.
- On some Ford diesels, a faulty oil pump or worn pump components can cause high pressure readings that are not sensor-related.
- Always verify the sensor signal with a mechanical pressure gauge before condemning the sensor, as the PCM may misinterpret a valid high pressure condition.

Can I keep driving with P1218?

It is generally safe to drive with this code if the engine is running normally, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing until diagnosed. If the engine enters limp mode or runs poorly, seek service promptly to prevent damage to the injection system.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Fuel pressure gauge (for diesel injection pressure)
- Basic hand tools (wrenches, sockets, screwdrivers)
- Electrical contact cleaner and dielectric grease

Reading P1218

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

Often seen with

P1217 Cylinder 5 Fuel Injector Circuit Short To B+ · **P1219** Cylinder 7 Fuel Injector Circuit Short To B+ · **P1217** Engine Over Temperature Overheat · **P1217** Fuel Solenoid Response Time Too Long · **P1219** Throttle Position Sensor Reference Voltage · **P1217** Pedal Position Sensor C Circuit Intermittent · **P1219** CID Low · **P1217** Fuel Solenoid Response Time Too Long · **P1219** Throttle Position Sensor Reference Voltage · **P0230** Fuel Pump Primary Circuit Malfunction · **P0231** Fuel Pump Secondary Circuit Low · **P0232** Fuel Pump Secondary Circuit High



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Manual Transmission Works: Four-Speed Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/ford-p1218/>

