

FORD · POWERTRAIN

P1220

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1220 · Ford

Series Throttle Control Fault

P1220 on Ford vehicles indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a fault within the series throttle control system, which is the electronic drive-by-wire circuit that translates accelerator pedal input into throttle plate movement. The computer monitors the correlation between the pedal position sensor and the throttle position sensor and sets this code when the signals fall outside the expected relationship or when the throttle actuator fails to respond as commanded.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or wrench light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced engine power or limp mode, limiting vehicle speed to a low threshold
- A throttle pedal that feels unresponsive or requires excessive travel to accelerate
- Rough or erratic idle quality that may fluctuate without driver input
- Intermittent hesitation or stumble during acceleration from a stop
- A sudden drop in engine speed or stall when coming to a stop

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Carbon buildup or mechanical binding on the throttle plate or throttle body bore
- 2 Faulty accelerator pedal position sensor or its connector
- 3 Wiring damage or corrosion in the throttle control circuit between the pedal and the throttle body
- 4 Failed electronic throttle body actuator motor or internal position sensor
- 5 Poor electrical connection at the throttle body harness connector
- 6 Powertrain control module software calibration issue or internal fault



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the throttle body bore and plate for carbon deposits and clean with throttle body cleaner if necessary
- 2 Check the accelerator pedal position sensor connector and throttle body connector for corrosion, loose pins, or water intrusion
- 3 Perform a wiggle test on the throttle control wiring harness while monitoring live data to reveal intermittent faults
- 4 Use a scan tool to compare accelerator pedal position and throttle position sensor readings for correlation and smooth operation
- 5 Check for the latest powertrain control module calibration and reprogram if a technical service bulletin applies
- 6 Replace the electronic throttle body if the actuator motor or internal sensor fails the diagnostic test
- 7 Replace the accelerator pedal assembly if the pedal position sensor is proven faulty

What Ford Throttle Control Faults Really Mean

- A dirty throttle body is the most common cause of P1220 on Ford vehicles, and cleaning the bore often resolves the code without any parts replacement.
- The code can set intermittently from a loose or corroded connector at the throttle body, so always inspect the harness before condemning the throttle body itself.
- A weak or failing battery or charging system can cause voltage drops that trigger throttle control faults, so verify battery health before deeper diagnostics.
- After replacing the throttle body or pedal assembly, a throttle relearn or idle relearn procedure with a capable scan tool is required to prevent the code from returning.
- P1220 can be stored alongside misfire or idle control codes when the throttle plate is not responding correctly, so address the root throttle fault before chasing secondary codes.

Can I keep driving with P1220?

You can usually drive the vehicle to a repair shop, but expect reduced engine power and avoid highways or heavy traffic because the vehicle may enter limp mode without warning. If the throttle response becomes erratic or the engine stalls repeatedly, stop driving and arrange a tow to prevent a safety hazard.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter for circuit and voltage checks
- Throttle body cleaner and clean shop rags
- Basic hand tools including socket set and screwdrivers
- Wiring diagram for the throttle control circuit
- Torque wrench for throttle body and pedal assembly fasteners



Reading P1220

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

Often seen with

P0121 Throttle Position Sensor A Circuit Range/Performance · **P0122** Throttle Position Sensor A Circuit Low Input · **P0123** Throttle Position Sensor A Circuit High Input · **P2106** Throttle Actuator Control System - Forced Limited Power · **P2135** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor A/B Voltage Correlation

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Supercharger Works: Roots Blower in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/ford-p1220/>

