

FORD · POWERTRAIN

P1222

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1222 · Ford

Traction Control Output Circuit Malfunction

P1222 on Ford vehicles means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an electrical fault in the output circuit that commands the traction control system, typically the circuit that feeds the traction control valve or relay. The PCM monitors the expected voltage or current on that output and sets the code when the signal falls outside the normal range, indicating an open, short, or excessive load.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Traction control warning light illuminated on the instrument cluster
- Traction control system disabled, with the stability control light often on as well
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal driving behavior
- Reduced engine power or limp mode in some Ford models when the fault is active
- ABS warning light may also illuminate if the traction control circuit shares components with the ABS system
- Intermittent warning light that comes and goes with vibration or moisture

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Damaged or corroded wiring harness at the traction control output connector
- 2 Failed traction control valve or actuator solenoid
- 3 Blown fuse or faulty relay in the traction control output circuit
- 4 Water intrusion into the connector or module causing corrosion and high resistance
- 5 Faulty PCM output driver, though this is less common
- 6 Poor ground connection for the traction control circuit
- 7 Aftermarket electrical accessories tapped into the traction control wiring



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the traction control system fuse and relay, replacing any blown fuse or faulty relay
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors at the traction control valve and PCM for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Measure resistance and voltage on the output circuit to identify an open or short, comparing to Ford service specifications
- 4 Test the traction control valve or actuator directly with a scan tool bidirectional control to confirm it operates
- 5 Check and clean the ground connections for the traction control circuit
- 6 If the circuit and valve test good, perform a continuity and load test on the PCM output driver circuit
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair with a road test that activates traction control

What Ford techs check before replacing the PCM

- A common cause on Ford vehicles is corrosion inside the connector at the traction control valve, which is often missed because the outside looks clean.
The code can be set by a weak battery or charging system fault that causes low voltage during cranking, so always check battery health first.
- Aftermarket alarm or remote start wiring tapped into the traction control circuit frequently triggers P1222 on Ford trucks and SUVs.
- The PCM rarely fails; replacing it before testing the output circuit under load is a costly misdiagnosis trap.
- On some Ford models, a failing ABS wheel speed sensor can cause the traction control system to command unusual output signals that set this code indirectly.

Can I keep driving with P1222?

You can usually drive the vehicle with the warning light on because the traction control system is disabled, but avoid slippery conditions where traction control would normally intervene. If the vehicle enters limp mode or the ABS light is also on, have it diagnosed promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Ford service wiring diagrams
- Test light
- Socket set and trim removal tools



Reading P1222

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

Often seen with

P1223 Fuel Rack Position Sensor Y2311 · **P1224** Electronic Throttle Control Position Error · **P1223** Pedal Demand Sensor B Circuit High Input · **P1224** Throttle Position Sensor B Out of Self-Test Range · **P1223** Pedal Position Sensor 2 High Input · **U0126** Lost Communication With Steering Angle Sensor Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Airbags Work: A 50 km/h Crash in Slow Motion](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/ford-p1222/>

