

FORD · POWERTRAIN

P1359

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1359 · Ford

Spark Output Circuit Fault

P1359 on Ford vehicles means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an unexpected condition on the spark output circuit, typically an open, short, or coil driver fault that prevents the PCM from properly triggering one or more ignition coils. The PCM monitors the ignition coil control circuit and sets this code when the commanded spark event does not match the expected electrical feedback.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Ford specific	Medium	Intermediate	Ignition system and misfire

Symptoms you may notice

- Check engine light or service engine soon light illuminated, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Engine misfire, rough idle, or hesitation under acceleration
- Reduced engine power or limp mode in some Ford models
- Hard starting or no-start condition if the fault affects multiple coils
- Poor fuel economy or increased emissions
- Flashing check engine light if the misfire is severe enough to damage the catalytic converter

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty ignition coil with an open or shorted primary winding
- 2 Damaged or chafed wiring in the spark output circuit between the PCM and coil
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the ignition coil or PCM
- 4 Failed ignition coil driver inside the PCM (less common but possible)
- 5 Spark plug with excessive gap or fouling that overloads the coil circuit
- 6 Aftermarket or incorrect ignition coil with wrong resistance
- 7 Moisture intrusion into the coil connector or wiring harness



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the ignition coil connectors and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins, and repair as needed
- 2 Swap the ignition coil from the affected cylinder with a known-good coil to see if the misfire moves
- 3 Measure the primary and secondary resistance of the suspect ignition coil and compare to Ford specifications
- 4 Check for spark at the affected cylinder using a spark tester while cranking the engine
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the spark output circuit wiring while monitoring misfire counters or coil feedback with a scan tool
- 6 Check the PCM connector for corrosion or pushed pins, and verify continuity from the PCM to the coil on the control circuit
- 7 If all external circuits and coils test good, diagnose the PCM driver circuit or replace the PCM as a last resort

What Ford technicians check before replacing coils

- A P1359 is often set by a single failing coil on Ford engines with coil-on-plug ignition, but the code can also appear when the coil driver inside the PCM fails, so always verify the control circuit before condemning the PCM.
- On many Ford models, a misfire from a bad spark plug or a coil boot with carbon tracking can trigger P1359 even though the coil itself still tests good on a bench, so inspect the boot and plug well for arcing marks.
- Wiring harness chafing near the valve cover or intake manifold is a common hidden cause on older Ford vehicles, and a visual inspection alone may miss internal wire breaks that only show up during engine vibration.
- This code does not always mean the coil is dead; a poor ground at the engine block or a weak battery can cause the PCM to see an unexpected spark output signal and set P1359.
- After replacing a coil or repairing wiring, clear the code and perform a misfire monitor drive cycle, because P1359 may not reset immediately if the fault was intermittent.

Can I keep driving with P1359?

You can usually drive short distances to a repair shop if the engine runs smoothly and the check engine light is steady, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing. If the light is flashing or the engine misfires badly, stop driving to prevent catalytic converter damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live misfire and coil feedback data
- Digital multimeter for resistance and continuity checks
- Spark tester
- Wiring diagram for the specific Ford model
- Socket set and Torx bits for coil removal
- Insulated wire probe or back-probe kit



Reading P1359

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (Ford): its meaning depends on the make.
- 3** Ignition system and misfire.
- 59** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0300 Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0301** Cylinder 1 Misfire Detected · **P0302** Cylinder 2 Misfire Detected · **P0351** Ignition Coil A Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction · **P0352** Ignition Coil B Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Cutaway: Intake to Exhaust](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/ford-p1359/>

