



P1534 · Ford

Inertia Switch Activated

P1534 on Ford vehicles means the inertia switch, also called the fuel pump shut-off switch, has been triggered and the powertrain control module (PCM) has seen the circuit in its activated state. The switch cuts power to the fuel pump after a sudden impact or jolt, and the computer sets this code because the fuel pump circuit is disabled.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Ford specific	Medium	Intermediate	Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Engine cranks but will not start or run
- Engine stalls suddenly while driving
- Fuel pump does not prime when the key is turned on
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the switch was tripped and reset before the code was read
- Hesitation or intermittent no-start if the switch is loose or corroded
- No fuel pressure at the fuel rail

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Inertia switch mechanically tripped by a hard jolt, pothole, or collision
- 2 Loose or corroded electrical connector at the inertia switch
- 3 Failed inertia switch internal contacts stuck open
- 4 Damaged or shorted wiring between the inertia switch and the fuel pump relay or PCM
- 5 Water intrusion or corrosion inside the switch housing
- 6 Aftermarket alarm or remote start installation tapping into the fuel pump circuit incorrectly

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Locate the inertia switch, usually in the passenger footwell or cargo area, and press the reset button firmly
- 2 Clear the code and verify the fuel pump primes; if the code returns, inspect the switch connector for corrosion or looseness
- 3 Check for battery power at the inertia switch input and continuity through the switch when reset
- 4 Inspect the wiring harness between the switch, fuel pump relay, and PCM for chafing or shorts
- 5 Test the fuel pump relay and fuel pump operation with a scan tool or manual bypass
- 6 Replace the inertia switch if it fails continuity or reset tests
- 7 Repair any damaged wiring and recheck for stored codes after a test drive



Why the inertia switch trips without a crash

- A hard pothole, curb strike, or even a heavy door slam can trip the inertia switch on some Ford models, setting P1534 without any collision damage.
- The switch is a safety device, not a fault sensor, so the code often means it did its job rather than failed; always reset it before replacing parts.
- Corrosion at the switch connector is a common hidden cause, especially on vehicles with water leaks into the passenger footwell or cargo area.
- Aftermarket accessories wired into the fuel pump circuit can mimic a failed inertia switch and set P1534 intermittently.
- P1534 does not always mean the switch itself is bad; a shorted wire between the switch and the fuel pump relay can keep the circuit in the activated state.

Can I keep driving with P1534?

Do not drive the vehicle if it will not start or stalls, because the fuel pump is disabled and you risk being stranded or causing a crash. If the engine runs after resetting the switch, drive cautiously to a safe location and avoid hard jolts until the cause is checked.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Fuel pressure gauge
- Trim removal tools
- Test light

Reading P1534

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
1	Manufacturer-specific code (Ford): its meaning depends on the make.
5	Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs.
34	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1237 Cylinder 1 Injector Circuit Open Circuit · **P1237** VSV 2 Circuit · **P1237** Injector Circuit Cylinder 6 Intermittent · **P1233** Fuel Pump Driver Module Off-Line · **P1237** Fuel Pump Secondary Circuit Fault · **P1237** Injector Circuit Cylinder 6 Intermittent · **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 [Helicopter Simulator: Take Off, Hover and Land](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/ford-p1534/>

