

FORD · POWERTRAIN

P1536

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1536 · Ford

Parking Brake Switch Circuit Failure

P1536 on Ford vehicles means the parking brake switch circuit has failed, so the computer is not seeing the expected voltage change when the parking brake is applied or released. The module monitors the switch input and flags the code when the signal stays open, shorted, or out of range for a set period.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Parking brake warning light stays on constantly or never illuminates when the brake is applied
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the brake mechanically working fine
- Cruise control may disengage or fail to engage because the module thinks the parking brake is applied
- Remote start or push-button start may be inhibited on models that require the parking brake signal
- Message center may display a brake system or parking brake warning message

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed parking brake switch on the pedal assembly or handbrake lever
- 2 Broken, corroded, or disconnected wiring at the switch connector
- 3 Chafed or open circuit in the parking brake switch ground or signal wire
- 4 Water intrusion or corrosion in the connector or switch housing
- 5 Faulty body control module (BCM) or instrument cluster input circuit
- 6 Blown fuse or poor ground shared with the parking brake circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the parking brake warning light behavior and confirm the code with a scan tool while cycling the parking brake
- 2 Inspect the parking brake switch connector for corrosion, pushed pins, or broken wires
- 3 Test the switch continuity with a multimeter through its full travel and compare to Ford service specifications
- 4 Check the switch ground circuit for excessive resistance and repair any chafed or open wiring
- 5 Check the fuse and module ground for the parking brake circuit
- 6 Replace the parking brake switch if it fails the continuity test
- 7 Clear the code and verify the parking brake signal reads correctly on a scan tool data stream



What Ford techs check before replacing the switch

- A parking brake switch that tests fine on the bench can still set P1536 when the pedal assembly mounting bracket is bent and the switch plunger never fully changes state.
- On many Ford models the parking brake switch shares a ground with the instrument cluster or body control module, so a bad ground elsewhere can set this code with a perfectly good switch.
- P1536 is often stored alongside communication or body codes after a battery replacement or low-voltage event, so check for a weak battery before chasing the switch circuit.
- The code can be set by a switch that is mechanically stuck closed, which keeps the module from seeing the release transition even though the warning light appears normal.
- Do not assume the parking brake switch is the same as the brake pedal switch; Ford uses separate inputs, and replacing the wrong one leaves P1536 unresolved.

Can I keep driving with P1536?

The vehicle is safe to drive because the parking brake still works mechanically, but avoid relying on cruise control or remote start until the circuit is repaired. If the warning light prevents the vehicle from starting or shifting, have it diagnosed before driving further.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with Ford data stream capability
- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tools
- Wiring diagram for the specific Ford model
- Contact cleaner and dielectric grease

Reading P1536

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.
36	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1537 Engine Shutoff Solenoid Malfunction · **P1537** A/C Request Circuit Voltage Low · **P1537** Intake Manifold Runner Control Stuck Open · **P1537** A/C Request Circuit Low Voltage · **P0504** Brake Switch 'A/B' Correlation · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes 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-p1536/>

