

GM · POWERTRAIN

P1697

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1697 · GM

PCM Failure SRI Mile Not Stored

P1697 on a GM vehicle means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected that the Service Replacement Indicator (SRI) mileage value was never written into its non-volatile memory after a replacement or reprogramming event. The PCM expects a stored mileage value to track when certain maintenance or replacement items are due, and it sets this code when that memory location is blank or invalid.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	GM specific	Low	Professional	Computer and output circuits

Symptoms you may notice

- The check engine light or service vehicle soon light is illuminated on the dashboard.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the vehicle running and driving normally.
- The service interval reminder or maintenance indicator may fail to display or reset correctly.
- In some cases, a related message about service scheduling or maintenance due may appear in the driver information center.
- No noticeable change in engine performance, fuel economy, or transmission behavior in most instances.

Common causes, most likely first

- PCM was replaced or reprogrammed and the SRI mileage value was not initialized with a scan tool.
- A failed or interrupted programming session left the non-volatile memory location blank or corrupted.
- Internal PCM memory fault affecting the non-volatile storage area for the SRI value.
- Low battery voltage or a power interruption during a module programming event prevented the value from being written.
- Aftermarket tuning or a used PCM swap where the SRI data was not transferred or set correctly.
- A scan tool or programming procedure that does not support the SRI initialization step for that specific GM model.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a capable scan tool and read all modules for stored codes to confirm P1697 is current and not history.
- 2 Verify battery voltage and charging system health, as low voltage during programming is a common cause.
- 3 Use the scan tool to access the PCM special functions and perform the SRI mileage initialization or setup procedure.
- 4 If initialization fails, check for any related communication or programming codes in the PCM and address them first.
- 5 Confirm the correct calibration and software are installed in the PCM for the vehicle identification number.
- 6 If the SRI value cannot be stored after a successful initialization attempt, suspect an internal PCM fault and follow GM diagnostic procedures for module replacement.
- 7 After the repair, clear codes and verify the SRI value is retained after a key cycle and a short drive.

Why the SRI value never got stored

- This code is almost always a programming or setup issue rather than a mechanical failure, so replacing sensors or engine parts will not fix it.
- A common missed cause is a battery that was disconnected or went flat during a PCM replacement or reprogramming event, leaving the SRI write step incomplete.
- Used or aftermarket PCMs often arrive with blank or mismatched SRI data, and simply installing them without the initialization procedure will set P1697.
- Some low-cost scan tools can read the code but cannot perform the SRI initialization, leading owners to believe the PCM is faulty when it just needs the correct tool.
- The code does not mean the engine is damaged or that maintenance was actually missed; it only indicates the PCM lacks a valid stored mileage reference.

Can I keep driving with P1697?

It is generally safe to continue driving with P1697 because the fault affects only the stored maintenance mileage reference and does not impair engine operation. Avoid disconnecting the battery or interrupting any programming session until the SRI value has been correctly initialized, and have the code addressed at the next service opportunity.

Tools that help

- GM-compatible scan tool with PCM special functions and SRI initialization capability
- Battery charger or power supply to maintain stable voltage during programming
- Factory service information or programming software for the specific GM model
- Digital multimeter for battery and charging system checks
- J2534 pass-through device if reprogramming or module setup is required



Reading P1697

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (GM): its meaning depends on the make.
- 6** Computer and output circuits.
- 97** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0601 Internal Control Module Memory Checksum Error · **P0602** Control Module Programming Error · **P0603** Internal Control Module KAM Error · **P0606** PCM Processor Fault · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A

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/gm-p1697/>

