

GM · POWERTRAIN

P1886

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1886 · GM

Shift Timing Solenoid

P1886 on a GM vehicle indicates that the transmission control module has detected an abnormal condition in the shift timing solenoid circuit, which is responsible for controlling the timing of gear shifts by regulating hydraulic pressure. The computer monitors the solenoid's electrical circuit and compares the commanded shift timing to the actual response, setting the code when the expected performance is not achieved.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	GM specific	Medium	Professional	Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- Harsh or delayed shifts, especially when the transmission is cold
- Transmission may enter limp mode with reduced performance
- Check engine light or transmission warning light illuminated
- Slipping between gears or failure to shift at the proper time
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially in early stages

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty shift timing solenoid (internally shorted or open coil)
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness connector at the solenoid
- 3 Open or shorted circuit in the wiring between the TCM and solenoid
- 4 Low or contaminated transmission fluid affecting solenoid operation
- 5 Sticking or worn valve body causing incorrect hydraulic response
- 6 Failed transmission control module (TCM) or internal driver circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace if contaminated
- 2 Inspect the solenoid connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Measure resistance of the shift timing solenoid and compare to specification
- 4 Test the solenoid circuit for continuity and short to ground or power
- 5 Replace the shift timing solenoid if electrical tests indicate failure
- 6 Inspect valve body for debris or sticking valves if solenoid tests good
- 7 Reprogram or replace the TCM if all other components test within spec



Before replacing the shift solenoid

- A low fluid level or degraded fluid can mimic a failed shift timing solenoid, so always verify fluid condition first.
- Corroded terminals at the solenoid connector are a common cause on high-mileage GM vehicles and can be fixed without parts replacement.
- The code may set intermittently due to a wiring harness rubbed through near the transmission case, so a wiggle test is essential.
- Replacing the solenoid without addressing a sticking valve body often leads to the code returning shortly after repair.
- Some GM transmissions require a relearn procedure after solenoid replacement, and skipping it can cause harsh shifts and a repeat code.

Can I keep driving with P1886?

You can usually drive the vehicle with this code, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy towing until repaired, as shift quality may be compromised and could lead to further transmission damage. If the transmission enters limp mode or shifts become severely harsh, seek service promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with transmission diagnostics capability
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level indicator
- Socket and wrench set
- Wiring diagram for the specific GM model

Reading P1886

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
1	Manufacturer-specific code (GM): its meaning depends on the make.
8	Transmission.
86	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1887 TCC Release Switch Circuit · **P0700** Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0720** Output Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/gm-p1886/>

