

HONDA · POWERTRAIN

P1259

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1259 · Honda

VTEC System Malfunction Rear Bank 1

P1259 on Honda vehicles indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a malfunction in the VTEC (Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control) system for the rear bank of cylinders. The computer monitors oil pressure switches and solenoid circuits and sets this code when the expected change in valve timing does not occur or the electrical circuit is out of range.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Honda specific	Medium	Intermediate	Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced engine power or a limp-home mode above a certain RPM
- Rough idle or stalling, especially when cold
- Poor fuel economy or increased emissions
- Audible valve train noise or ticking from the rear bank
- Hesitation or stumble during acceleration

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Low engine oil level or degraded oil preventing proper VTEC oil pressure
- 2 Faulty VTEC oil pressure switch on the rear bank
- 3 Clogged VTEC solenoid screen or oil passage
- 4 Failed VTEC solenoid or wiring issue (open, short, or corrosion)
- 5 Sticking VTEC rocker arm or spool valve
- 6 Engine mechanical wear reducing oil pressure to the VTEC system

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check engine oil level and condition; top off or change oil if needed
- 2 Inspect the VTEC solenoid connector and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 3 Remove and clean the VTEC solenoid screen and oil passages
- 4 Test the VTEC oil pressure switch with a multimeter and replace if faulty
- 5 Measure oil pressure at the VTEC port to confirm mechanical integrity
- 6 Replace the VTEC solenoid assembly if electrically or mechanically failed
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to verify the repair



Before you replace the VTEC solenoid

- A low oil level or severely degraded oil is the most common cause of P1259, so always verify oil condition before condemning any component.
- The rear bank VTEC system on V6 Honda engines is often neglected during maintenance, leading to clogged screens that mimic solenoid failure.
- A faulty oil pressure switch can set P1259 even when the VTEC mechanism works perfectly, so test the switch before replacing the solenoid.
- Wiring harness damage near the rear valve cover can cause intermittent P1259 codes that appear only under certain engine vibrations.
- After repairs, the PCM may require a relearn procedure or several drive cycles before the code clears permanently.

Can I keep driving with P1259?

You can usually drive the vehicle with P1259, but avoid aggressive acceleration and high RPMs because the VTEC system may not engage properly, which can lead to reduced performance and potential engine damage over time. Have the fault diagnosed promptly to prevent worsening symptoms.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner
- Multimeter
- Oil pressure gauge
- Socket set
- Wrench set
- Clean rags

Reading P1259

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
1	Manufacturer-specific code (Honda): its meaning depends on the make.
2	Fuel and air metering (injector circuits).
59	The exact fault within that area.



Often seen with

P1257 Engine Coolant System Valve Open · **P1258** Engine Coolant System Valve Short To B+ · **P1257** Boost Control Fault / Supercharger Overboost · **P1258** Engine Overtemperature Protection / Low Coolant Fuel Disable · **P1257** Pedal Correlation PDS2 and HPDS · **P1258** Pedal Correlation PDS1 and PDS2 · **P1257** Supercharger System Overboost · **P1258** Engine Coolant Overtemperature Protection Mode Active · **P0011** 'A' Camshaft Position - Timing Over-Advanced or System Perfo · **P2646** 'A' Rocker Arm Actuator System Performance or Stuck Off (Ban · **P2647** 'A' Rocker Arm Actuator System Stuck On (Bank 1)

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Six-Speed Manual Gearbox Works](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/honda-p1259/>

