



P1656 · Honda

Automatic Transmission System Malfunction

P1656 on Honda vehicles indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a malfunction within the automatic transmission system, typically a fault in the solenoid control circuit or internal transmission component. The PCM monitors transmission solenoids and sensors for expected electrical and hydraulic behavior, and this code sets when the signals fall outside the programmed parameters.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Honda specific	Medium	Professional	Computer and output circuits

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light or transmission malfunction indicator
- Harsh or delayed shifting, especially when cold
- Transmission stuck in limp mode or a single gear
- Slipping during acceleration or abnormal shift points
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, particularly in early stages

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty shift solenoid or linear solenoid inside the transmission
- 2 Deteriorated or contaminated automatic transmission fluid (ATF)
- 3 Damaged wiring or corroded connector at the transmission solenoid pack
- 4 Failed transmission control module (TCM) or PCM internal fault
- 5 Sticking valve body or hydraulic circuit blockage
- 6 Low transmission fluid level due to a leak

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check and top off transmission fluid level; inspect for leaks and condition
- 2 Scan all modules for stored codes and freeze-frame data to pinpoint the affected circuit
- 3 Perform a visual inspection of the transmission wiring harness and connectors for damage or corrosion
- 4 Test the resistance and operation of the suspected solenoid with a multimeter
- 5 Replace the faulty solenoid or solenoid pack if electrical tests fail
- 6 Perform a transmission fluid drain and refill with Honda-approved ATF, then clear codes and road test
- 7 If the fault persists, diagnose the valve body or internal transmission components



What Honda Technicians Check First for P1656

- A low or dirty transmission fluid condition is a frequent trigger for P1656, and a simple fluid service often resolves the issue before any parts are replaced.
- The code can be set by a momentary electrical glitch in the solenoid circuit, so always check for intermittent wiring faults before condemning the solenoid.
- Honda transmissions are sensitive to incorrect fluid types; using non-Honda ATF can cause solenoid performance codes like P1656.
- A failing transmission control module (TCM) may mimic solenoid faults, so verify power and ground supplies to the TCM before replacement.
- P1656 is sometimes stored alongside P0700 (transmission control system malfunction) and P0715 (input/turbine speed sensor circuit), which can help narrow the diagnosis.

Can I keep driving with P1656?

You can usually drive the vehicle to a repair shop if the transmission is not slipping severely, but avoid heavy acceleration, towing, or long trips until the fault is diagnosed. If the transmission enters limp mode or shifts erratically, stop driving and seek professional service to prevent further damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with Honda-specific software
- Digital multimeter
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool for fluid temperature
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Honda-approved automatic transmission fluid

Reading P1656

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

Often seen with

P0700 Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0750** Shift Solenoid 'A' · **P0755** Shift Solenoid 'B' · **P0760** Shift Solenoid 'C'



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/honda-p1656/>

