

JAGUAR · POWERTRAIN

P1236

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1236 · Jaguar

VSV 1 Circuit

P1236 on a Jaguar means the engine control module has detected an electrical fault in the circuit for Vacuum Switching Valve 1, a solenoid the computer uses to control vacuum flow to an emissions or intake component. The module monitors the valve's command wire for expected voltage or current and flags the code when the signal falls outside its programmed window.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough or unstable idle quality, especially when the engine is cold
- Hesitation or a slight stumble during light acceleration
- Poor fuel economy or elevated emissions during a state inspection
- A faint clicking or buzzing from the valve area that does not match engine demand
- In some cases, a stored pending code with no driveability complaint at all

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed vacuum switching valve solenoid, typically an open or shorted internal coil
- 2 Corroded, pushed-back or broken terminal pins at the valve connector
- 3 Chafed or broken wiring in the harness between the valve and the engine control module
- 4 Blown fuse or poor ground shared by the valve circuit
- 5 Engine control module driver circuit fault, though this is the least common cause
- 6 Oil or coolant contamination wicking into the connector and altering resistance



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules and record freeze-frame data to confirm when the fault sets and whether other codes are present
- 2 Inspect the valve connector and harness for corrosion, pushed pins, chafing and contamination before touching any parts
- 3 Measure the valve coil resistance with a multimeter and compare it to the Jaguar specification for that part
- 4 Backprobe the command wire and ground circuit while commanding the valve on and off with a scan tool to verify the driver signal
- 5 Check the fuse and ground path for the circuit and repair any high resistance found
- 6 Replace the vacuum switching valve only after electrical testing confirms the coil or driver is at fault
- 7 Clear the code, run a readiness drive cycle and verify the fault does not return

What the VSV circuit test really checks

- A P1236 can set from a mechanically stuck valve that still passes a resistance test, so verify the valve actually changes vacuum flow when commanded.
- Technicians often replace the valve when the real fault is a corroded ground eyelet on the engine block that raises circuit resistance only when hot.
- The code does not always mean the valve has failed; a chafed harness section near the intake manifold can short intermittently and set the code only on rough roads.
- On some Jaguar engines the same valve circuit is shared with a secondary air or EVAP function, so a fault there can trigger P1236 without any valve problem.
- A vacuum leak elsewhere in the system can make the valve appear faulty because the module sees unexpected vacuum behaviour and logs the circuit code.

Can I keep driving with P1236?

The car is generally safe to drive to a workshop because the fault mainly affects emissions and idle quality, but avoid heavy acceleration and long trips until it is diagnosed. If the engine runs rough or stalls, stop driving and have it inspected promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Backprobe pins or breakout leads
- Hand vacuum pump
- Jaguar wiring diagram for the specific model and engine



Reading P1236

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

Often seen with

P1237 Cylinder 1 Injector Circuit Open Circuit · **P1237** VSV 2 Circuit · **P1237** Injector Circuit Cylinder 6 Intermittent · **P1237** Fuel Pump Secondary Circuit Fault · **P1237** Injector Circuit Cylinder 6 Intermittent · **P0171** System Too Lean (Bank 1) · **P0443** EVAP Purge Control Valve Circuit Malfunction · **P0446** EVAP Vent Control Circuit Malfunction · **P0505** Idle Control System Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Oxygen Sensor Works: Live 3D Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/jaguar-p1236/>

