



P1455 · Kia

Fuel Tank Sending Unit Open Or Short 1.8L

P1455 on a Kia with the 1.8L engine means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an open circuit or a short circuit in the fuel tank sending unit circuit, so it cannot reliably read the fuel level. The PCM monitors the signal voltage from the sending unit and flags this code when the voltage stays outside the expected range for a set period.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Kia specific	Low	Intermediate	Auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Fuel gauge reads empty or full constantly, or swings erratically regardless of actual fuel level
- Low fuel warning light stays on even when the tank is full
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the gauge still appearing to work normally
- Fuel gauge drops to empty shortly after refueling and then recovers
- Incorrect distance-to-empty or fuel economy readings on the instrument cluster

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed fuel tank sending unit (fuel level sensor) inside the tank
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness between the sending unit and the PCM
- 3 Loose, corroded, or disconnected electrical connector at the fuel tank sending unit
- 4 Open or shorted ground circuit for the fuel level sensor
- 5 PCM internal fault on the fuel level input circuit (rare)
- 6 Aftermarket alarm or remote start wiring tapped into the fuel gauge circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and read live fuel level sensor voltage to confirm the PCM is seeing an out-of-range signal
- 2 Visually inspect the sending unit connector and wiring at the fuel tank for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Measure resistance across the sending unit terminals and compare to the Kia specification for empty and full positions
- 4 Check continuity and resistance of the signal and ground wires from the sending unit connector to the PCM
- 5 If wiring checks pass, remove the fuel pump module and inspect the sending unit for a worn resistor card or stuck float
- 6 Replace the faulty fuel tank sending unit or fuel pump module assembly as required
- 7 Clear the code and verify the fuel gauge reads correctly through a full sweep from empty to full



Why the fuel gauge lies before the code sets

- A sending unit can fail intermittently and still pass a static resistance test, so wiggle the harness and sweep the float by hand while watching live data on the scan tool.
- Kia fuel level sending units often wear through the resistor card at the most common fuel level, causing an open circuit only when the tank is near half full.
- Corrosion inside the connector at the top of the fuel tank is a frequent cause on older Kia models, especially in regions that use road salt.
- A shorted signal wire can read as a full tank and mask the fault, so check for continuity to ground on the signal circuit before condemning the sending unit.
- Aftermarket accessories wired into the fuel gauge circuit can introduce resistance that sets P1455 without any fault in the sending unit itself.

Can I keep driving with P1455?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because this fault only affects fuel level information and does not alter engine operation. Refuel based on the trip odometer rather than the gauge until the fault is repaired, and avoid running the tank very low.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Fuel tank sending unit wrench or lock ring tool
- Wiring diagram for the specific Kia model
- Safety glasses and fuel-resistant gloves

Reading P1455

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
1	Manufacturer-specific code (Kia): its meaning depends on the make.
4	Auxiliary emission controls.
55	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1454 Exhaust Gas Temperature Sensor 1 Short To Ground · **P1454** Evaporative Emission Control System Vacuum Test · **P1454** Secondary Air Injection Pump With Series Resistor Control Ci · **P0460** Fuel Level Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0461** Fuel Level Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0462** Fuel Level Sensor Circuit Low Input · **P0463** Fuel Level Sensor Circuit High Input



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Gyroscope Works: Gimbals and Precession](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/kia-p1455/>

