

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P018B

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P018B

Fuel Pressure Sensor B Circuit Range/Performance

P018B indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an out-of-range or performance fault in the electrical circuit for Fuel Pressure Sensor B, which is typically the sensor monitoring the low-pressure side of the fuel system. The PCM compares the sensor's voltage signal against expected values under specific operating conditions and sets this code when the signal falls outside the acceptable range or behaves erratically.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Fuel and air metering

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Intermittent or complete loss of engine power, especially during acceleration or under load
- Rough idle, hesitation, or stalling when coming to a stop
- Reduced fuel economy due to incorrect fuel pressure calculations
- Hard starting or extended cranking before the engine fires
- A stored lean or rich fuel trim code may accompany P018B

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty fuel pressure sensor B, which may have an internal short, open circuit, or degraded sensing element
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness and connector at the sensor, often due to heat, vibration, or contamination
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the PCM or a chafed wire between the sensor and the module
- 4 Low fuel pressure caused by a weak fuel pump, clogged filter, or faulty pressure regulator, which drives the sensor signal out of range
- 5 Contaminated fuel or a restricted fuel line affecting the sensor's ability to read correctly
- 6 A PCM software issue or internal fault, though this is less common and should be considered only after electrical checks



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of the fuel pressure sensor B, its connector, and the wiring harness for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 2 Use a scan tool to read live data from the sensor and compare it with a mechanical fuel pressure gauge reading to verify the fault
- 3 Check the sensor's reference voltage, ground, and signal return circuits with a digital multimeter to rule out wiring faults
- 4 Test the fuel pressure sensor B with a known-good unit or perform a resistance check if specifications are available
- 5 Inspect the fuel system for low pressure or restrictions, including the fuel filter and pump, if the sensor signal is plausible but out of range
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring and connectors as needed, then clear the code and verify the repair with a road test
- 7 If all electrical and fuel system checks pass, consult the manufacturer's diagnostic flow chart for PCM reprogramming or replacement

Don't overlook the fuel pressure sensor connector

- A common oversight is replacing the fuel pressure sensor B without first checking the connector for corrosion or pushed-back pins, which can mimic a failed sensor.
- This code can be set by a fuel system that is genuinely low on pressure, so always verify actual fuel pressure with a mechanical gauge before condemning the sensor.
- In some vehicles, Fuel Pressure Sensor B is part of a combined sensor assembly that also monitors temperature, and a fault in that shared circuit can trigger P018B.
- Intermittent wiring faults that only appear when the engine is hot or vibrating are often missed during a cold static test, so wiggle-test the harness while watching live data.
- A weak battery or charging system issue can cause voltage spikes that confuse the PCM and set false sensor codes, so check system voltage first.

Can I keep driving with P018B?

You can usually drive the vehicle with P018B set, but avoid aggressive acceleration or heavy loads because incorrect fuel pressure readings may cause lean conditions and reduced power. If the engine stalls, hesitates severely, or the check engine light flashes, stop driving and seek professional diagnosis.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Fuel pressure test gauge
- Basic hand tools for connector and sensor access
- Wiring diagram or service information for the specific vehicle

Reading P018B

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
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- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
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- 1** Fuel and air metering.
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- 8B** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0087 Fuel Rail/System Pressure - Too Low · **P0088** Fuel Rail/System Pressure - Too High · **P018A** Fuel Pressure Sensor B Circuit · **P018C** Fuel Pressure Sensor B Circuit Low · **P018D** Fuel Pressure Sensor B Circuit High

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/p018b/>

