

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0265

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0265

Cylinder 2 Injector Circuit High

P0265 means the engine computer has detected an abnormally high current or voltage on the electrical circuit that operates the fuel injector for cylinder number 2. The computer monitors the injector driver circuit and flags this code when the signal on the control wire stays higher than expected for too long, indicating a short to power, a faulty injector, or a wiring problem.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or misfire that may feel like a shake or stumble
- Noticeable loss of power or hesitation during acceleration
- Poor fuel economy compared to normal
- Engine may run rich or emit black smoke from the tailpipe in severe cases
- In some vehicles, the engine may enter limp mode or shut off the affected cylinder

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty fuel injector with an internally shorted coil
- 2 Short to power in the injector control wire between the computer and the injector
- 3 Damaged or corroded injector connector or pins
- 4 Open or high-resistance ground circuit for the injector
- 5 Failed engine computer driver for that injector circuit
- 6 Aftermarket or damaged wiring harness chafing against a power wire



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the cylinder 2 injector connector and wiring for obvious damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 2 Measure the injector coil resistance with a multimeter and compare it to the manufacturer's specification
- 3 Check for a short to power on the injector control wire with the key on and the computer disconnected
- 4 Verify the injector ground circuit has low resistance back to the computer or chassis ground
- 5 Swap the cylinder 2 injector with a known-good injector from another cylinder to see if the code moves
- 6 If the injector and wiring test good, test the computer driver output with an oscilloscope or a noid light
- 7 Replace the faulty injector, repair the wiring, or replace the computer as needed, then clear the code and verify the repair

Why P0265 is often misdiagnosed

- A shorted injector coil can test fine at room temperature but fail when hot, so a resistance check alone may miss the problem.
- The code can be set by a poor ground connection at the engine block rather than by the injector itself, so always check grounds before replacing parts.
- Some vehicles use a shared power feed for multiple injectors, and a short in one injector can affect others, so inspect the entire circuit.
- A failed computer driver is rare but possible, and it is often misdiagnosed as a bad injector because the symptoms are identical.
- Aftermarket injectors with incorrect resistance can trigger this code even when they are new and otherwise functional.

Can I keep driving with P0265?

You can usually drive the vehicle short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing because the misfire can overheat the catalytic converter. If the engine runs very rough or stalls, stop driving and have it towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Noid light or injector test light
- Oscilloscope (optional for advanced diagnosis)
- Basic hand tools and wire repair kit



Reading P0265

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

Often seen with

P0202 Injector Circuit Malfunction - Cylinder 2 · **P0264** Cylinder 2 Injector Circuit Low · **P0266** Cylinder 2 Contribution/Balance · **P0267** Cylinder 3 Injector Circuit Low · **P0302** Cylinder 2 Misfire Detected

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Fuel Injector Works: Pulse Width and Spray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0265/>

