

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P026D

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P026D

Fuel Injection Quantity A Higher Than Expected

P026D indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected a fuel injection quantity for a specific cylinder that is higher than the commanded or expected amount. The ECM monitors injector performance and calculates that more fuel is being delivered than the engine's operating conditions require, which can upset the air-fuel ratio and trigger the check engine light.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Professional	Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or engine misfire, especially when cold
- Decreased fuel economy and a rich-running exhaust smell
- Black smoke from the tailpipe under acceleration
- Hesitation or stumble during acceleration
- Elevated hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions on an emissions test

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty or sticking fuel injector for the affected cylinder
- 2 Contaminated or degraded fuel causing injector imbalance
- 3 Wiring harness damage or poor electrical connection to the injector
- 4 Low fuel pressure or a weak fuel pump causing uneven delivery
- 5 Engine control module (ECM) calibration issue or internal fault
- 6 Mechanical engine problem such as low compression on that cylinder
- 7 Leaking or restricted fuel return line affecting injector performance



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Connect a scan tool and record freeze-frame data to identify the affected cylinder and operating conditions
- 2 Inspect the injector wiring harness and connectors for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Perform a fuel pressure test and compare with manufacturer specifications
- 4 Run an injector balance test or cylinder contribution test to isolate the faulty injector
- 5 Check for intake and exhaust leaks that could skew the ECM's fuel calculations
- 6 Swap the suspect injector with a known-good one from another cylinder and recheck the code
- 7 If the injector is faulty, replace it and clear the adaptive fuel trims before retesting

What the code does not always mean

- A P026D code can be set by a simple electrical fault such as a corroded injector connector, so always inspect the harness before condemning the injector itself.
- Low fuel pressure from a tired fuel pump can cause the ECM to command a longer injector pulse width, which may be misinterpreted as excess fuel delivery and set this code.
- On some vehicles, a dirty mass airflow (MAF) sensor or a vacuum leak can skew fuel calculations enough to trigger P026D without any injector problem.
- The code often appears alongside misfire codes like P0300 or P0301, but the misfire may be the root cause rather than a separate issue.
- A sticking injector may only act up when the engine is cold or under specific load conditions, so intermittent symptoms should not be dismissed.

Can I keep driving with P026D?

You can usually drive the vehicle short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing because excess fuel can damage the catalytic converter and dilute engine oil. If the engine is misfiring badly or the check engine light is flashing, stop driving and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and injector balance capability
- Fuel pressure gauge
- Digital multimeter
- Noid light or injector pulse tester
- Hand tools for harness and injector access



Reading P026D

- 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).
- 6D** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0172 System Too Rich (Bank 1) · **P0201** Injector Circuit Malfunction - Cylinder 1 · **P0261** Cylinder 1 Injector Circuit Low · **P0300** Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0301** Cylinder 1 Misfire Detected

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Fuel Trims Explained: Short-Term and Long-Term](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p026d/>

