

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0355

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0355

Ignition Coil 'E' Primary/Secondary Circuit

P0355 indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected a fault in the primary or secondary circuit of ignition coil 'E', which is typically the fifth coil in the firing order on a multi-coil engine. The ECM monitors the coil's electrical behavior and sets this code when the circuit does not match expected voltage or current patterns during operation.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Ignition system and misfire

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or misfire sensation, especially when the engine is cold or under load
- Reduced engine power and poor acceleration
- Shaking or vibration from the engine bay
- Worsened fuel economy due to incomplete combustion
- In some cases, the engine may enter limp mode to protect the catalytic converter

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty ignition coil 'E' (primary or secondary winding failure)
- 2 Worn or damaged spark plug or spark plug boot for that cylinder
- 3 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the coil
- 4 Open or short circuit in the coil primary circuit
- 5 Failed ignition control module or driver inside the ECM (less common)
- 6 Poor ground connection for the ignition system
- 7 Aftermarket or incorrect coil installed previously

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of coil 'E', its connector, and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 2 Swap coil 'E' with a known-good coil from another cylinder and see if the misfire follows the coil
- 3 Test the coil's primary and secondary resistance with a multimeter and compare to specifications
- 4 Check for spark at the affected cylinder using a spark tester
- 5 Inspect the spark plug and replace if worn or fouled
- 6 Test the wiring between the coil and ECM for continuity and shorts
- 7 If all else checks out, diagnose the ECM driver circuit or replace the ECM as a last resort



Coil 'E' circuit faults often misdiagnosed

- A bad spark plug or boot can cause a P0355 code even if the coil itself is good, so always inspect the secondary ignition components first.
- The code refers to coil 'E' by its position in the firing order, not necessarily cylinder number 5, so consult the specific vehicle's coil labeling before swapping parts.
- Intermittent wiring faults can set P0355 without a constant misfire; wiggle-test the harness while the engine is running to catch them.
- A failing ECM driver for coil 'E' is rare but possible, especially if the coil and wiring test good and the code persists after swapping coils.
- P0355 can be triggered by a poor ground connection at the engine block, which affects all coils but may set a code for only one.

Can I keep driving with P0355?

You can drive cautiously to a repair shop if the engine runs smoothly, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing. If the check engine light flashes or the engine misfires severely, stop driving to prevent catalytic converter damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner
- Digital multimeter
- Spark tester
- Socket set and extensions
- Wire probe and electrical contact cleaner

Reading P0355

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
3	Ignition system and misfire.
55	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0300 Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0305** Cylinder 5 Misfire Detected · **P0351** Ignition Coil A Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction · **P0352** Ignition Coil B Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction · **P0353** Ignition Coil C Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction



See it working

Watch the animated explainer **Four-Stroke Engine Cutaway: Intake to Exhaust** on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0355/>

