

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0463

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0463

Fuel Level Sensor Circuit High Input

P0463 means the engine computer has seen the fuel level sensor signal voltage stay higher than the expected range for a set amount of time, which usually indicates an open circuit or a sensor reporting a level that is impossibly high. The powertrain control module (PCM) compares the fuel level sender voltage against expected values and flags this code when the reading stays above the high threshold.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Low	Intermediate	Auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Fuel gauge reads full or pegged past full all the time, even when the tank is low
- Fuel gauge may drop to empty or stay stuck at one position regardless of actual fuel level
- Low fuel warning light may stay on or never come on when the tank is actually low
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the gauge appearing normal to the driver
- Fuel gauge reading may fluctuate or jump when driving over bumps or around corners
- Remote start or fuel economy calculations may be affected on vehicles that use the fuel level input

Common causes, most likely first

- Open circuit in the fuel level sensor signal wire, often from a broken wire or corroded connector at the fuel tank
- Failed fuel level sensor (sending unit) inside the fuel tank, commonly worn resistor tracks or a bad float arm
- Poor ground connection at the fuel tank or chassis, causing the sensor reference voltage to be skewed high
- Corroded or damaged electrical connector at the fuel pump module assembly
- Faulty fuel pump module assembly where the sensor is integrated and the internal connection has failed
- Rarely, a PCM internal fault on the fuel level input circuit, though this is uncommon



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the fuel level sensor connector and wiring at the fuel tank for corrosion, loose pins, or chafed wires, and repair as needed
- 2 Check the sensor ground circuit for excessive resistance using a multimeter and clean or repair the ground point
- 3 Measure the signal voltage at the fuel level sensor connector with the key on and compare to the manufacturer's specification for the current fuel level
- 4 Remove the fuel pump module and inspect the fuel level sensor for worn resistor tracks, a binding float arm, or debris, replacing the sensor or module if faulty
- 5 Verify the signal wire from the sensor to the PCM is not open or shorted to voltage by performing a continuity and voltage drop test
- 6 If wiring and sensor check out, test the PCM fuel level input circuit and replace the PCM only after all other causes are ruled out
- 7 Clear the code and verify the fuel gauge reads correctly through a full sweep of the tank level, then confirm the code does not return

What a high fuel level signal really means

- A high signal voltage usually means an open circuit rather than a sensor that is simply reading full, so check the wiring before condemning the fuel pump module.
- Many vehicles use the fuel level input to calculate the distance to empty and to enable remote start, so a faulty signal can disable features that seem unrelated to the gauge.
- The fuel level sensor shares a connector with the fuel pump on most returnless systems, and fuel pump module replacement is often the only way to fix a failed sensor on those designs.
- A skewed ground at the fuel tank can make the fuel level signal read high even when the sensor and signal wire are perfect, so always verify the ground circuit first.
- This code does not always mean the gauge will be wrong; some vehicles set P0463 from a brief open circuit during extreme cold or after a tank removal, and the code may not return after clearing.

Can I keep driving with P0463?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the fuel level input does not affect engine operation, but you should track your fuel usage manually and refuel before the tank runs low since the gauge and low fuel warning may be unreliable. Avoid relying on the distance-to-empty display until the fault is repaired.



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 fuel level sensor circuit
- Basic hand tools for trim and fuel tank access

Reading P0463

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
4	Auxiliary emission controls.
63	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0460 Fuel Level Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0461** Fuel Level Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0462** Fuel Level Sensor Circuit Low Input · **P0464** Fuel Level Sensor 'A' Circuit Intermittent · **P0465** EVAP Purge Flow Sensor Circuit

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/p0463/>

