

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0479

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0479

Exhaust Pressure Control Valve Intermittent

P0479 means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an intermittent fault in the exhaust pressure control valve circuit, which is used on diesel engines to manage exhaust backpressure for turbocharging and emissions. The PCM monitors the valve's electrical circuit and sees the signal drop out or become erratic for brief periods, rather than failing completely.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced engine power or limp mode during acceleration
- Rough running or hesitation under load
- Poor fuel economy or increased regeneration frequency
- In rare cases, a noticeable exhaust leak or unusual noise from the valve area

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty exhaust pressure control valve solenoid or actuator
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the valve
- 3 Loose or poor ground connection for the valve circuit
- 4 Sticking or carbon-fouled valve mechanism causing intermittent electrical feedback
- 5 PCM software glitch or internal driver fault (less common)
- 6 Aftermarket modifications or poor previous repairs to the exhaust system

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the valve connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 2 Check the valve's resistance and compare to manufacturer specifications
- 3 Verify the valve moves freely and is not carbon-seized
- 4 Test the circuit for intermittent opens or shorts by wiggling the harness while monitoring live data
- 5 Check and clean all ground connections related to the exhaust pressure control system
- 6 If the valve tests bad, replace it and clear the code
- 7 If the circuit and valve are good, check for PCM software updates or diagnose the PCM driver



Intermittent faults hide in plain sight

- A valve that tests fine when cold can fail only when hot, so always test the circuit both cold and at operating temperature.
- Carbon buildup on the valve pintle often causes intermittent sticking that mimics an electrical fault, so mechanical cleaning is a valid first step before replacement.
- The PCM may set P0479 from a brief glitch that never returns, so clearing the code and monitoring for recurrence is smarter than immediate parts swapping.
- Wiring harness damage from heat cycling or vibration is a top cause, and a simple wiggle test with a scan tool graphing the valve signal can expose it.
- This code does not always mean the valve is failing; a weak battery or charging system can cause voltage spikes that trigger intermittent circuit codes.

Can I keep driving with P0479?

You can usually continue driving with P0479, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing until it is diagnosed, because the valve may not regulate backpressure correctly and could lead to turbo or emissions damage over time.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the exhaust pressure control circuit
- Basic hand tools for connector and valve access
- Vacuum pump or hand-held actuator tester (if applicable)

Reading P0479

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

Often seen with

P0299 Turbo/Supercharger Underboost · **P0475** Exhaust Pressure Control Valve · **P0476** Exhaust Pressure Control Valve Range/Performance · **P0477** Exhaust Pressure Control Valve Low · **P0478** Exhaust Pressure Control Valve High



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/p0479/>

