

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P04FA

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P04FA

EGR A Control Temperature Too High

P04FA indicates that the powertrain control module has detected an excessively high temperature in the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system's 'A' control circuit or associated temperature sensor. The computer compares the measured EGR temperature against expected values and sets this code when the reading exceeds the calibrated threshold, often due to a stuck-open EGR valve or a faulty temperature sensor.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or engine stumbling, especially when the EGR valve is stuck open
- Reduced engine performance or hesitation during acceleration
- Poor fuel economy due to incorrect EGR flow
- Possible overheating or elevated coolant temperatures in severe cases
- Intermittent misfire codes or drivability issues if the EGR system disrupts combustion

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty EGR temperature sensor providing an inaccurate high reading
- 2 Stuck-open EGR valve allowing excessive hot exhaust gas to recirculate
- 3 Clogged or restricted EGR cooler passages causing localized overheating
- 4 Wiring or connector damage (shorts, opens, corrosion) in the EGR temperature sensor circuit
- 5 Failed EGR valve actuator or solenoid keeping the valve open
- 6 Carbon buildup on the EGR valve pintle or seat preventing proper closure
- 7 Engine overheating or cooling system issues indirectly raising EGR temperatures



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Use an OBD-II scanner to verify P04FA and check for related codes; record freeze-frame data
- 2 Inspect the EGR temperature sensor wiring and connector for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 3 Test the EGR temperature sensor resistance or voltage output against manufacturer specifications
- 4 Command the EGR valve open and closed with a scan tool while monitoring temperature sensor readings
- 5 Remove and inspect the EGR valve for carbon buildup or sticking; clean or replace as needed
- 6 Check the EGR cooler for restrictions or internal leaks; flush or replace if clogged
- 7 Clear codes and perform a road test to confirm the repair and ensure the code does not return

Don't overlook the EGR temperature sensor

- A skewed EGR temperature sensor is a common culprit that mimics a stuck-open EGR valve, so always compare its live reading to actual exhaust temperatures before replacing the valve.
- Carbon buildup inside the EGR valve or cooler can cause hot spots that trigger P04FA even when the valve appears to function correctly during a static test.
- This code can be set by a cooling system fault that raises overall engine temperature, so verify coolant level and thermostat operation before diving into the EGR system.
- In some vehicles, the EGR temperature sensor is integrated into the EGR valve assembly, making sensor replacement a costly affair; confirm the sensor is faulty before condemning the whole unit.
- A stuck-open EGR valve may not always produce obvious drivability symptoms, so rely on live data and component tests rather than seat-of-the-pants diagnosis.

Can I keep driving with P04FA?

You can usually drive with P04FA set, but avoid prolonged heavy acceleration or towing until the fault is repaired, as excessive EGR flow can cause overheating and engine damage. If the engine overheats or runs very poorly, stop driving and seek professional diagnosis immediately.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control
- Digital multimeter for circuit and sensor testing
- Infrared thermometer to verify EGR component temperatures
- Hand tools (wrenches, sockets, screwdrivers) for EGR valve removal
- Service information for EGR temperature sensor specifications and wiring diagrams



Reading P04FA

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

Often seen with

P0400 Exhaust Gas Recirculation Flow Malfunction · **P0401** EGR Flow Insufficient Detected · **P0402** EGR Flow Excessive Detected · **P0403** EGR Circuit Malfunction · **P04F0** EVAP System High Load Purge Line A Performance

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p04fa/>

