



P0557

Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit Low Input

P0557 means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a low input voltage from the brake booster pressure sensor circuit, which monitors the vacuum or hydraulic pressure assisting your brakes. The sensor signal is below the expected range, so the PCM cannot reliably determine brake booster pressure and sets this code.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- A hard or stiff brake pedal that requires extra effort to stop the vehicle
- Reduced braking assist, especially during the first few presses after starting the engine
- A hissing noise from the brake booster area when the brake pedal is pressed
- An intermittent or flickering brake warning light in some vehicles
- Poor engine idle quality if the booster has a vacuum leak that affects engine vacuum

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed brake booster pressure sensor
- 2 Damaged, corroded, or disconnected electrical connector at the sensor
- 3 Open or shorted wire in the sensor signal circuit
- 4 Poor ground connection for the sensor or PCM
- 5 Vacuum leak at the brake booster, check valve, or hose causing incorrect pressure readings
- 6 Faulty powertrain control module (PCM) or body control module (BCM), though rare



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the brake booster pressure sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, damage, or loose pins
- 2 Check the sensor's reference voltage and ground circuits with a digital multimeter
- 3 Test the sensor signal voltage and compare it to the manufacturer's specification while applying the brake pedal
- 4 Inspect the brake booster vacuum hose, check valve, and booster body for leaks or cracks
- 5 Replace the brake booster pressure sensor if testing confirms it is faulty
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring or connectors as needed
- 7 Clear the diagnostic trouble codes and verify the repair with a test drive

Don't overlook the vacuum system

- A vacuum leak at the brake booster can cause the sensor to read low pressure even when the sensor itself is good, so always check the booster and hoses before replacing parts.
- The brake booster pressure sensor is sometimes integrated into the brake booster assembly, making replacement more involved and costly than a standalone sensor.
- A low input code can be set by a poor ground connection at the sensor or PCM, which is often overlooked during diagnosis.
- In some vehicles, a failing brake booster check valve can cause intermittent low pressure readings that only appear during certain driving conditions.
- This code does not always mean the sensor is bad; wiring issues and vacuum leaks are common culprits that should be ruled out first.

Can I keep driving with P0557?

If the brake pedal feels normal, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy braking or towing. If the pedal is hard or braking assist is reduced, stop driving and have the vehicle towed to prevent an accident.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner
- Digital multimeter
- Vacuum gauge
- Hand tools for trim and connector removal
- Service manual or wiring diagram for the specific vehicle



Reading P0557

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 5** Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs.
- 57** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0505 Idle Control System Malfunction · **P0555** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit · **P0556** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0558** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit High Input · **P0559** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit Intermittent

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Turbocharger Trainer: Boost, Wastegate and Intercooler](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0557/>

