

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0559

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0559

Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit Intermittent

P0559 indicates that the powertrain control module has detected an intermittent fault in the electrical circuit of the brake booster pressure sensor, which monitors the vacuum or hydraulic assist available for braking. The circuit works correctly at times but drops out or returns erratic readings, so the module cannot trust the sensor signal continuously.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the brake system warning light or the check engine light on the dashboard.
- A brake pedal that occasionally feels firmer or harder to push than usual, especially during repeated stops.
- Intermittent reduction in power brake assist, often noticed as inconsistent pedal effort from one stop to the next.
- A stored trouble code with no noticeable change in braking performance, since the fault is intermittent.
- Possible activation of a related warning message such as 'Brake Assist Unavailable' on vehicles with advanced braking features.
- Occasional erratic operation of cruise control or stability control systems that rely on brake pressure data.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A loose, corroded, or partially broken electrical connector at the brake booster pressure sensor.
- 2 Chafed or intermittently shorted wiring in the sensor harness, often where it routes near moving components or heat sources.
- 3 A failing brake booster pressure sensor that drops its signal under vibration or temperature changes.
- 4 A poor ground connection shared by the sensor circuit, causing voltage fluctuations that mimic a sensor fault.
- 5 A brake booster with an internal vacuum leak that causes pressure readings to swing outside the expected range.
- 6 A failing powertrain control module, though this is rare and should only be suspected after all circuit tests pass.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the brake booster pressure sensor connector and harness for corrosion, loose pins, or chafed insulation, and repair as needed.
- 2 Clear the code and perform a wiggle test on the sensor wiring while monitoring live sensor data to reproduce the intermittent fault.
- 3 Check the sensor reference voltage and ground at the connector with a multimeter, comparing readings to the manufacturer's specification.
- 4 Test the brake booster pressure sensor output with a scan tool or oscilloscope, looking for dropouts or erratic voltage swings during brake pedal application.
- 5 Verify that the brake booster holds vacuum properly and that no check valve or hose leak is causing abnormal pressure readings.
- 6 Replace the brake booster pressure sensor if circuit and booster tests confirm the sensor itself is dropping its signal.
- 7 After repair, clear the codes and road test the vehicle through several stop-and-go cycles to confirm the code does not return.

Intermittent faults that fool good technicians

- An intermittent code like P0559 often sets only once during a specific driving condition, such as a hard stop or a cold start, so the fault may not be present when the vehicle is in the bay.
- A chafed wire that only shorts when the engine moves under torque can pass every static multimeter test, making a live-data wiggle test far more valuable than a simple resistance check.
- Technicians sometimes replace the brake booster pressure sensor only to find the real problem is a corroded ground shared with other sensors, which corrupts the reference voltage.
- A vacuum leak at the brake booster check valve can cause pressure readings to swing enough to set P0559 without any visible damage to the sensor or its wiring.
- Vehicles with electronic stability control may store P0559 alongside codes for the yaw rate or wheel speed sensors, leading some to misdiagnose the fault as a stability system failure rather than a brake booster circuit issue.

Can I keep driving with P0559?

The vehicle remains driveable because the fault is intermittent, but you should avoid heavy braking or towing until it is repaired, since a sudden loss of power assist can increase stopping distance. If the brake pedal feels consistently hard or the warning light stays on, stop driving and have the system inspected immediately.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Oscilloscope for capturing intermittent sensor signals
- Vacuum gauge and hand vacuum pump
- Wiring diagram for the brake booster pressure sensor circuit
- Basic hand tools for connector and harness inspection

Reading P0559

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.
59	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0040 Left Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit · **P0555** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit · **P0556** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0557** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit Low Input · **P0558** Brake Booster Pressure Sensor Circuit High Input

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/p0559/>

