

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0560

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

P0560

System Voltage Malfunction

P0560 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a system voltage that is outside its expected operating range, typically below 10 volts or above 16 volts, for a calibrated period. The PCM monitors the voltage supply to its own circuitry and to critical sensors and actuators, and sets this code when the reading deviates from normal battery/charging system voltage.

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
- Dimming or flickering of interior and exterior lights
- Engine cranks slowly or fails to start, especially in cold conditions
- Erratic operation of electrical accessories such as radio, windows, or climate control
- Transmission may shift harshly or enter limp mode due to low voltage affecting solenoids
- Multiple unrelated trouble codes stored in various modules due to voltage instability

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failing or weak battery that cannot hold a proper charge
- 2 Defective alternator or voltage regulator not maintaining correct charging voltage
- 3 Corroded, loose, or damaged battery terminals and cable connections
- 4 Damaged or chafed wiring in the charging circuit, including the sense wire from the alternator to the PCM
- 5 Blown fuse or faulty fusible link in the charging system
- 6 Poor ground connection between the engine, chassis, and battery
- 7 Internal fault in the PCM voltage sensing circuit (rare)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a battery load test and state-of-charge check; replace battery if it fails
- 2 Inspect and clean battery terminals and cable ends; tighten to specification
- 3 Measure charging voltage at the battery with the engine running; should be 13.5–14.5 volts
- 4 Check alternator belt condition and tension; replace if worn or glazed
- 5 Test the alternator output and the voltage sense wire circuit for continuity and voltage drop
- 6 Inspect all ground straps and connections between engine, chassis, and battery for corrosion or looseness
- 7 If all external circuits test good, diagnose the PCM voltage supply and ground circuits before condemning the PCM

Voltage codes often mislead even seasoned techs

- A weak battery can set P0560 without ever illuminating the battery light, because the PCM sees low voltage during cranking before the alternator catches up.
- Corroded ground connections on the engine block or chassis are a frequent hidden cause that a simple voltage check at the battery may not reveal.
- The code can be set by a momentary voltage spike during jump-starting or battery replacement if the PCM is not properly protected.
- Technicians sometimes replace the alternator only to find the real fault is a damaged sense wire or a blown fuse in the charging circuit.
- P0560 can appear alongside transmission codes because low voltage disrupts solenoid operation, leading to unnecessary transmission repairs.

Can I keep driving with P0560?

If the charging system is not maintaining proper voltage, the battery will eventually drain and the engine may stall or fail to restart. Limit driving to short distances and avoid using unnecessary electrical accessories until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter
- Battery load tester
- OBD-II scan tool
- Basic hand tools (wrenches, screwdrivers)
- Wire brush or terminal cleaner



Reading P0560

- 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.
- 60** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0562 System Voltage Low · **P0563** System Voltage High · **P0620** Generator Control Circuit Malfunction · **P0621** Generator Lamp/L Terminal Circuit · **P0622** Generator Field F Terminal Circuit

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Radiator Fan Relay Circuit Works](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0560/>

