

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P059F

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P059F

Active Grille Air Shutter A Performance/Stuck Off

P059F indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a performance fault with the active grille air shutter system for bank A, specifically that the shutter is stuck in the off or closed position when it should be open. The PCM commands the shutter to move and monitors its position through feedback, and when the expected movement does not occur within a calibrated time, it sets this code.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced fuel economy due to increased aerodynamic drag when the shutter remains closed at highway speeds
- Possible overheating or higher engine coolant temperatures if the shutter fails to open when cooling is needed
- A visible grille shutter that remains closed after the engine has warmed up or when the air conditioning is on
- In some vehicles, a message on the driver information center indicating a grille shutter fault or reduced engine power
- Audible clicking or buzzing from the grille shutter actuator area when the vehicle is started or shut off

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Debris, snow, ice, or road splash accumulation physically blocking the shutter vanes from moving
- 2 Failed grille shutter actuator motor or internal binding of the actuator mechanism
- 3 Damaged or disconnected electrical connector or wiring to the shutter actuator
- 4 Broken or stripped shutter linkage, gears, or vanes that prevent movement
- 5 Faulty shutter position sensor or feedback circuit within the actuator assembly
- 6 Corrosion or water intrusion into the actuator or connector causing intermittent operation
- 7 PCM software calibration issue or faulty PCM driver for the shutter circuit (less common)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the grille shutter assembly for debris, ice, or physical damage and clean or clear any obstructions
- 2 Check the actuator electrical connector for corrosion, tightness, and damaged pins; repair or replace as needed
- 3 Command the shutter open and closed with a scan tool and observe whether the actuator moves and whether position feedback changes
- 4 Measure voltage and ground at the actuator connector during command to verify power and control signals from the PCM
- 5 Manually attempt to move the shutter vanes to check for binding or a broken linkage; replace the shutter assembly if mechanical failure is confirmed
- 6 If electrical and mechanical checks pass, test the actuator motor directly with a known-good power source and replace the actuator if it does not operate
- 7 After repair, clear the diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs) and perform a shutter relearn or calibration procedure as required by the vehicle manufacturer

Grille Shutter Faults That Fool Technicians

- A shutter that is stuck closed due to winter ice or packed snow is a very common cause, and the code often clears after the vehicle is thawed in a heated garage without any parts replacement.
- Some vehicles will set P059F when the shutter is unplugged or missing entirely, such as after a front-end repair, because the PCM expects feedback and sees none.
- The active grille shutter system may be disabled by the PCM after repeated faults, so the shutter may appear to work during a quick test even though the underlying problem remains.
- A weak or failing battery can cause the actuator to stall during its self-test, setting a false P059F; always verify battery condition and charging system voltage before condemning the shutter.
- On many models, the grille shutter shares a fuse or relay with other body components, so a blown fuse may cause this code along with unrelated symptoms.

Can I keep driving with P059F?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with P059F because the shutter defaults to a safe position, but avoid sustained high-speed driving or heavy load conditions that could cause elevated engine temperatures until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and live data capability
- Digital multimeter for voltage and resistance checks
- Trim removal tools for accessing the grille shutter assembly
- Flashlight and mirror for visual inspection of the shutter and linkage
- Service information for shutter calibration and wiring diagrams



Reading P059F

- 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.
- 9F** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P059E Active Grille Air Shutter A Position Sensor Circuit Intermit · **P05A0** Active Grille Air Shutter A Stuck On · **P05A1** Active Grille Air Shutter A Position Sensor Minimum/Maximum · **P05A2** Active Grille Air Shutter A Control Circuit/Open · **P05A3** Active Grille Air Shutter A Control Circuit Range/Performanc

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Fuel Injector Works: Pulse Width and Spray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p059f/>

