

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P061B

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P061B

Internal Control Module Torque Calculation Performance

P061B indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an internal error in its torque calculation performance, meaning the computer cannot reliably compute the engine's torque output. The PCM compares its calculated torque value against expected limits and sets this code when the internal calculation falls outside the acceptable range.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Professional	Computer and output circuits

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced engine performance or a sudden loss of power during acceleration
- Harsh or erratic transmission shifting due to incorrect torque signals
- Poor fuel economy as the PCM struggles to manage engine load accurately
- In rare cases, the engine may enter limp mode or stall unexpectedly

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty or corrupted PCM software or internal hardware failure
- 2 Poor electrical connections at the PCM, including corroded or loose pins
- 3 Wiring damage or short circuits in the harness between the PCM and related sensors
- 4 A failing throttle position sensor (TPS) sending erratic signals to the PCM
- 5 Malfunctioning mass airflow (MAF) sensor providing inaccurate air intake data
- 6 Low battery voltage or charging system issues causing unstable PCM operation
- 7 Aftermarket tuning or programming that alters torque calculation parameters

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify battery voltage and charging system health, as low voltage can trigger false PCM errors
- 2 Inspect and clean PCM connectors and grounds for corrosion or looseness
- 3 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the PCM
- 4 Perform a thorough scan for other stored codes that may indicate sensor faults
- 5 Test the throttle position sensor and mass airflow sensor for proper signal output
- 6 Reprogram or reflash the PCM with the latest calibration from the manufacturer
- 7 Replace the PCM if internal hardware failure is confirmed after all other checks



What P061B really tells you about your PCM

- This code often appears after a dead battery or jump-start, when voltage spikes confuse the PCM's torque calculation logic.
- Many technicians replace the PCM prematurely; a simple software reflash frequently resolves the issue without hardware replacement.
- A dirty or failing mass airflow sensor can skew torque calculations enough to set P061B without triggering a dedicated MAF code.
- Aftermarket performance tuners that modify torque tables are a common culprit, and restoring the factory calibration often clears the code.
- Intermittent wiring faults at the PCM connector can mimic internal PCM failure, so always wiggle-test the harness while monitoring live data.

Can I keep driving with P061B?

You can usually drive the vehicle short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing because the PCM may misjudge torque and cause erratic shifting or power loss. If the engine enters limp mode or stalls, pull over safely and seek professional assistance.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and graphing capabilities
- Digital multimeter for voltage and continuity checks
- Factory service information for wiring diagrams and TSBS
- PCM reprogramming tool or access to dealer software
- Socket set and terminal pick tools for connector inspection

Reading P061B

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
6	Computer and output circuits.
1B	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0101 Mass/Volume Air Flow Circuit Range/Performance · **P0121** Throttle Position Sensor A Circuit Range/Performance · **P0601** Internal Control Module Memory Checksum Error · **P0606** PCM Processor Fault · **P2135** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor A/B Voltage Correlation



See it working

Watch the animated explainer **V6 Engine Explained: 60° Bank and Firing Order** on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p061b/>

