

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P065D

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

P065D

Reductant System Malfunction Lamp Control Circuit

P065D indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a fault in the electrical circuit that controls the reductant system malfunction lamp, which is the dashboard warning light for the diesel exhaust fluid system. The computer monitors the lamp control circuit for expected voltage or current behavior and sets this code when the circuit does not respond as commanded, meaning the driver may not be properly alerted to a reductant system problem.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Computer and output circuits

Symptoms you may notice

- The reductant system warning lamp may fail to illuminate when the ignition is turned on or may stay illuminated constantly
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light itself, as the lamp circuit fault does not affect engine performance
- Other reductant system codes may be present if the lamp circuit fault is secondary to a larger issue
- The lamp may flicker or behave erratically if the circuit has an intermittent connection
- A stored P065D may prevent the lamp from illuminating during a bulb check, masking other warnings

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed or burned-out reductant system malfunction lamp bulb or LED assembly
- 2 Open or short circuit in the wiring between the powertrain control module and the lamp
- 3 Corroded, loose, or damaged electrical connector at the lamp or powertrain control module
- 4 Faulty powertrain control module driver for the lamp control circuit
- 5 Blown fuse or poor ground connection serving the lamp circuit
- 6 Water intrusion or physical damage to the lamp housing or wiring harness



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the lamp illuminates during the instrument cluster bulb check; if not, inspect the bulb or LED and replace if faulty
- 2 Check all fuses and grounds related to the instrument cluster and reductant warning lamp circuit
- 3 Disconnect the battery and inspect the wiring harness and connectors between the powertrain control module and the lamp for damage or corrosion
- 4 Use a digital multimeter to check for continuity and voltage on the lamp control circuit, comparing readings to factory specifications
- 5 If the circuit tests good, substitute a known-good lamp or instrument cluster to rule out the lamp assembly
- 6 Check for technical service bulletins or software updates for the powertrain control module that may address lamp control issues
- 7 If all else fails, diagnose the powertrain control module driver circuit or replace the module as a last resort

When the lamp circuit itself is the fault

- A failed lamp bulb is the most common cause of P065D, yet many technicians replace the powertrain control module first because they overlook the simple bulb check.
- This code does not mean the reductant system itself has failed; it only indicates the warning lamp circuit cannot be controlled, so always check for other reductant codes before condemning the system.
- Intermittent connections at the instrument cluster connector are a frequent culprit, especially on vehicles with prior dashboard repairs or water leaks.
- Some vehicles use a shared ground for multiple warning lamps, so a single bad ground can set P065D along with other lamp circuit codes.
- After repairing the circuit, the code may require a specific drive cycle or scan tool command to clear and verify the lamp operation.

Can I keep driving with P065D?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because this code only affects the warning lamp circuit and does not alter engine operation or emissions compliance directly. However, address it promptly so that you are not deprived of the reductant system warning, which could lead to a more serious fault going unnoticed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Trim removal tools
- Service manual or wiring diagram



Reading P065D

- 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.
- 5D** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P065E Intake Manifold Tuning Valve Performance Bank 1 · **P065F** Intake Manifold Tuning Valve Performance Bank 2 · **P20B9** Reductant Heater A Control Circuit/Open · **P20BA** Reductant Heater A Control Performance · **P20BE** Reductant Heater B Control Circuit Performance

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Master the Four-Stroke Engine Cycle](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p065d/>

