

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P069A

OBD-II TROUBLE CODE

P069A

Cylinder 9 Glow Plug Control Circuit Low

P069A is a generic OBD-II code indicating that the engine control module (ECM) has detected a low-voltage condition on the control circuit for cylinder 9's glow plug. The ECM commands the glow plug on and monitors the circuit, and it sees voltage below the expected threshold, which points to a short to ground or an open circuit in the wiring or glow plug itself.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light (malfunction indicator lamp) on the dashboard.
- Often no noticeable drivability symptoms besides the warning light, especially in warm weather.
- Hard starting or rough idle when the engine is cold, particularly in diesel engines that rely on glow plugs for cold starts.
- Excessive white smoke from the exhaust after a cold start due to incomplete combustion in cylinder 9.
- Possible misfire or rough running during the warm-up period if the glow plug fails to heat.
- In some vehicles, a message indicating reduced engine power or a glow plug system fault.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty glow plug on cylinder 9 (open internal element or shorted).
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness connector at the glow plug.
- 3 Open or shorted wire in the glow plug control circuit between the ECM and the glow plug.
- 4 Failed glow plug control module (if equipped) affecting only cylinder 9's circuit.
- 5 Poor ground connection for the glow plug circuit.
- 6 ECM internal fault causing incorrect voltage monitoring (rare).

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the glow plug connector and wiring for damage, corrosion, or loose pins; repair or replace as needed.
- 2 Measure the resistance of the glow plug with a multimeter and compare to specification; replace if out of range.
- 3 Check for continuity and short to ground in the control circuit wiring between the glow plug and the control module.
- 4 Test the glow plug control module output (if applicable) with a diagnostic scan tool or oscilloscope.
- 5 Verify power and ground supplies to the glow plug control module.
- 6 Clear the diagnostic trouble codes and perform a road test to confirm the repair.
- 7 If the code persists after all checks, consult the factory service information for specific diagnostic procedures.

Glow Plug Circuit Low: What Techs Often Miss

- A low voltage code on a glow plug circuit is frequently caused by a poor connection at the glow plug itself, not a failed plug; always inspect the connector before condemning the plug.
On engines with a glow plug control module, the module may set a circuit-specific code for one cylinder even when the fault lies in the shared power or ground circuit for that bank.
- Cylinder 9 glow plug codes are more common on V8 diesel engines, and technicians sometimes overlook that the engine may have two separate glow plug control modules, one per bank.
- A glow plug that tests good with an ohmmeter can still cause a low voltage code if its internal element is intermittent when hot; a voltage drop test under load is more reliable.
This code does not always mean the glow plug is defective; a shorted wire in the harness can mimic a failed plug, so circuit testing is essential before parts replacement.

Can I keep driving with P069A?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with this code, but cold-start performance and fuel economy may suffer, and prolonged driving with a faulty glow plug can lead to carbon buildup or damage to the cylinder. Avoid heavy loads or extended idling until repaired, and address the issue promptly to prevent secondary problems.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wire repair kit (soldering iron, heat shrink, connectors)
- Factory service information or wiring diagrams



Reading P069A

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

Often seen with

P0670 Glow Plug Module Control Circuit · **P0679** Cylinder 9 Glow Plug Circuit · **P069B** Cylinder 9 Glow Plug Control Circuit High · **P069C** Cylinder 10 Glow Plug Control Circuit Low · **P069D** Cylinder 10 Glow Plug Control Circuit High

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Airbags Work: A 50 km/h Crash in Slow Motion](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p069a/>

