



P069C

Cylinder 10 Glow Plug Control Circuit Low

P069C indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a low-voltage condition on the control circuit for cylinder 10's glow plug, which is used in diesel engines to aid cold starting. The PCM expects a specific voltage on the control wire when the glow plug is commanded on, and a reading below the threshold triggers this code.

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, MIL).
- Hard starting or rough running when the engine is cold, especially in low temperatures.
- Excessive white smoke from the exhaust after a cold start due to incomplete combustion.
- Engine misfire or rough idle until the engine warms up.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, particularly in mild climates.
- Possible reduced fuel economy during warm-up.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty glow plug on cylinder 10 (open or shorted internally).
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring or connector at the cylinder 10 glow plug.
- 3 Open or shorted control circuit between the glow plug control module and the glow plug.
- 4 Failed glow plug control module (also called glow plug relay or controller).
- 5 Poor ground connection for the glow plug circuit.
- 6 PCM internal fault affecting the control circuit (rare).



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the glow plug connector and wiring at cylinder 10 for damage, corrosion, or loose pins; repair as needed.
- 2 Measure the resistance of the cylinder 10 glow plug with a multimeter and compare to specifications; replace if out of range.
- 3 Check for battery voltage at the glow plug connector when the key is turned on (during glow plug pre-heat); if absent, trace the circuit back to the control module.
- 4 Test the control circuit for continuity and shorts to ground or power; repair wiring as necessary.
- 5 Verify the glow plug control module is receiving power and ground and is functioning correctly; replace if faulty.
- 6 Clear the diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs) and perform a cold-start test to confirm the repair.
- 7 If the code persists after all external checks, consult factory service information for PCM diagnostics and reprogramming or replacement.

Glow Plug Circuit Low: Beyond the Plug

- A low circuit code often results from a glow plug that has failed open, causing the control module to see low voltage on the feedback line, so the plug itself is the most common culprit.
- Corroded terminals at the glow plug are frequently overlooked because they can mimic a failed plug; always inspect and clean connectors before replacing parts.
- The glow plug control module may set this code for multiple cylinders if its internal switching fails, but P069C specifically points to cylinder 10, so focus diagnostics there first.
- In some vehicles, the glow plug circuit is monitored only during the initial key-on pre-heat cycle, so intermittent faults may not set the code until a cold start.
- A weak battery or charging system issue can cause low voltage on the control circuit and trigger this code, so always verify battery condition and connections.

Can I keep driving with P069C?

You can generally continue driving with this code, but cold starting may be difficult and the engine may run rough until warm; avoid prolonged driving with a misfire and address the issue before winter or cold weather to prevent starting problems.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Socket set and extensions
- Factory service information or wiring diagrams



Reading P069C

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

Often seen with

P0380 Glow Plug/Heater Circuit A Malfunction · **P0670** Glow Plug Module Control Circuit · **P069A** Cylinder 9 Glow Plug Control Circuit Low · **P069B** Cylinder 9 Glow Plug Control Circuit High · **P069D** Cylinder 10 Glow Plug Control Circuit High

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p069c/>

