

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P213F

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P213F

Fuel Pump System Fault - Forced Engine Shutdown

P213F indicates that the powertrain control module has commanded a forced engine shutdown because it detected a fault within the fuel pump control system, such as an implausible signal or circuit malfunction. The computer monitors fuel pump operation and, upon detecting a critical fault, cuts fuel delivery to protect the engine and fuel system from potential damage.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

High

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Fuel and air metering

Symptoms you may notice

- Engine may crank but not start, or start and immediately stall
- Sudden loss of engine power while driving, leading to a forced shutdown
- Illuminated check engine light or service engine soon light
- Fuel pump may not prime when the ignition is turned on
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty fuel pump control module or fuel pump driver module
- 2 Open or short circuit in the fuel pump wiring or connector
- 3 Failed fuel pump assembly, including the pump motor or internal sensor
- 4 Corroded or damaged electrical connectors at the fuel pump or control module
- 5 Blown fuse or faulty relay in the fuel pump power circuit
- 6 Powertrain control module software issue or internal fault

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for related codes and record freeze-frame data to understand the conditions when the fault set
- 2 Visually inspect the fuel pump wiring harness and connectors for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 3 Check the fuel pump fuse and relay, and verify power and ground at the fuel pump connector
- 4 Test the fuel pump control module with a multimeter or oscilloscope to confirm signal integrity
- 5 Perform a fuel pressure test to verify the pump is delivering adequate pressure and volume
- 6 If the control module is suspect, follow the manufacturer's diagnostic flow to test its inputs and outputs
- 7 Replace the faulty component only after confirming the root cause, then clear codes and verify the repair

What the forced shutdown really means

- P213F is often set by a failing fuel pump control module that intermittently cuts power to the pump, which can be missed if the module tests fine when cold.
- A weak fuel pump that draws excessive current can trigger this code without completely failing, so always check current draw and fuel pressure under load.
- Corroded grounds for the fuel pump circuit are a common hidden cause, especially in areas with road salt, and can mimic a failed module.
- The code does not always mean the pump is dead; a wiring short to ground or a faulty relay can command the shutdown, so test the entire circuit before replacing parts.
- Some vehicles require reprogramming or initialization of the fuel pump control module after replacement, which is a step many DIYers overlook.

Can I keep driving with P213F?

Do not drive the vehicle with this code active, as the engine can shut down unexpectedly while moving, creating a serious safety risk. Have the vehicle towed to a repair facility for proper diagnosis.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control and live data
- Digital multimeter
- Oscilloscope for signal analysis
- Fuel pressure gauge
- Wiring diagram and service information

Reading P213F

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 2** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 1** Fuel and air metering.
- 3F** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0087 Fuel Rail/System Pressure - Too Low · **P0191** Fuel Rail Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0230** Fuel Pump Primary Circuit Malfunction · **P0231** Fuel Pump Secondary Circuit Low · **P0232** Fuel Pump Secondary Circuit High



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Variable Valve Timing Works: Cam Phaser and VVT Solenoid](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p213f/>

