

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P260A

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

## P260A

### PTO Control Circuit / Open

P260A indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an open circuit in the power take-off (PTO) control circuit, meaning the expected voltage or current is missing when the PTO system is commanded on. The PCM monitors the circuit for continuity and sets this code when the electrical path is broken, which prevents the PTO from engaging or disengaging properly.

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

### Symptoms you may notice

- The PTO system fails to engage when activated, so attached equipment does not operate.
- The PTO may not disengage, leaving the auxiliary drive stuck on.
- A warning light or message appears on the dashboard indicating a PTO fault.
- The engine may idle differently or run rough when the PTO is commanded.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the PTO is not in use.

### Common causes, most likely first

- Broken or disconnected wire in the PTO control circuit, often at a connector or flex point.
- Corroded or damaged PTO control switch or relay contacts.
- Failed PTO control solenoid or actuator coil (open winding).
- Blown fuse or faulty power supply to the PTO control circuit.
- Poor ground connection for the PTO circuit.
- Damaged PCM driver for the PTO control circuit (rare).

### How to diagnose and fix it

- Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related PTO codes.
- Inspect the PTO control circuit wiring and connectors for obvious damage, corrosion, or looseness.
- Check the fuse and relay for the PTO control circuit and replace if faulty.
- Measure resistance of the PTO control solenoid or actuator to check for an open coil.
- Perform a voltage drop test on the control circuit while commanding the PTO on with a scan tool.
- Repair or replace any damaged wiring, connectors, or the faulty component.
- Clear the code and test the PTO operation to confirm the repair.



## PTO Circuit Open: Common Oversights

- A common oversight is assuming the PTO switch is bad when the real problem is a chafed wire hidden inside a loom or near a hinge point.
- The PCM may set P260A even if the PTO system was never used, because the circuit is monitored continuously for continuity.
- Aftermarket accessories or modifications to the PTO circuit often introduce opens that trigger this code.
- The code can be set by a poor ground connection that affects the entire PTO circuit, not just the control wire.
- Always check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) for the specific vehicle, as some models have known harness routing issues.

## Can I keep driving with P260A?

If the PTO is not needed for driving, the vehicle can be driven, but the PTO system will be inoperative. Avoid using the PTO until the fault is repaired, as an open circuit may cause unpredictable operation of attached equipment.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the PTO circuit
- Test light
- Basic hand tools

## Reading P260A

|           |                                                                      |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>P</b>  | Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.                      |
| <b>2</b>  | Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle. |
| <b>6</b>  | Computer and output circuits.                                        |
| <b>0A</b> | The exact fault within that area.                                    |

## Often seen with

**P260B** PTO Control Circuit Low · **P260C** PTO Control Circuit High · **P260D** PTO Engaged Lamp Control Circuit · **P260E** Particulate Filter Regeneration Lamp Control Circuit · **P260F** EVAP System Monitoring Processor Performance



## See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Supercharger Works: Roots Blower in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p260a/>

