

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P260B

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P260B

PTO Control Circuit Low

P260B indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a low-voltage condition on the power take-off (PTO) control circuit, which is used to engage or disengage auxiliary equipment such as a hydraulic pump or winch. The PCM monitors the circuit and sets this code when the voltage on the control wire falls below the expected threshold, indicating a short to ground, an open circuit, or a faulty component.

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 or disengage when commanded.
- The warning light on the dashboard illuminates.
- The auxiliary equipment driven by the PTO does not operate.
- The PTO indicator lamp may flash or stay off entirely.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the PTO is not in use.
- The engine may derate or limit power in some applications to protect the PTO system.

Common causes, most likely first

- A short to ground in the PTO control circuit wiring, often due to chafed insulation or pinched wires.
- An open circuit in the PTO control circuit, such as a broken wire or poor connection.
- A faulty PTO switch or solenoid that has failed internally and is drawing excessive current or creating an open.
- Corroded or loose electrical connectors at the PTO switch, solenoid, or PCM.
- A defective PCM driver for the PTO control circuit, though this is less common.
- Aftermarket accessories improperly wired into the PTO circuit causing a low-voltage condition.
- Water intrusion into connectors or components causing corrosion and voltage drops.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related codes in other modules.
- 2 Inspect the PTO control circuit wiring for visible damage, chafing, or corrosion, especially near moving parts and connectors.
- 3 Disconnect the PTO switch and solenoid and measure resistance to ground on the control wire to check for a short.
- 4 Check for continuity and voltage drop across the circuit while operating the PTO switch to identify an open or high resistance.
- 5 Test the PTO switch and solenoid for proper operation according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- 6 Repair or replace any damaged wiring, connectors, or components as needed.
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair by operating the PTO system and confirming the code does not return.

PTO Circuit Low: Don't Overlook the Basics

- A common oversight is assuming the PTO switch itself is faulty when the real problem is a chafed wire hidden behind a panel or near a heat source.
- The code can be set by a poor ground connection at the PTO solenoid or switch, which creates a low-voltage condition on the control circuit.
- Aftermarket accessories tapped into the PTO circuit often cause voltage drops that trigger this code, so check for non-factory wiring first.
- On some vehicles, the PTO control circuit is integrated with the body control module (BCM), so a low voltage code can be set by a failing BCM rather than the PCM.
- A weak battery or charging system issue can cause momentary low voltage on the PTO circuit, setting the code intermittently without any PTO malfunction.

Can I keep driving with P260B?

If the PTO is not in use, the vehicle can be driven cautiously, but avoid using the PTO system until the fault is repaired. If the PTO is required for work, do not operate it, as the system may fail to engage or disengage unexpectedly, leading to equipment damage or safety hazards.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Test light
- Electrical contact cleaner
- Basic hand tools



Reading P260B

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

Often seen with

P260A PTO Control Circuit / Open · **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 CVT Works: Belt and Pulley Transmission](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p260b/>

