

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P260D

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P260D

PTO Engaged Lamp Control Circuit

P260D indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a fault in the electrical circuit that controls the Power Take-Off (PTO) engaged lamp, which is the indicator that tells the operator when the PTO system is active. The PCM monitors the lamp control circuit for expected voltage or current and sets this code when the signal is outside the normal range, meaning the lamp may not illuminate or may stay on incorrectly.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- The PTO engaged lamp fails to illuminate when the PTO is activated.
- The PTO engaged lamp remains illuminated continuously even when the PTO is disengaged.
- The PTO system may not engage or may disengage unexpectedly, affecting equipment operation.
- A warning light or message on the dashboard indicating a PTO system fault.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the lamp itself is the only issue.
- Other PTO-related functions or interlocks may be disabled as a safety precaution.

Common causes, most likely first

- Failed PTO engaged lamp bulb or LED assembly.
- Damaged or corroded wiring or connector at the lamp, PCM, or PTO switch.
- Open circuit in the lamp control wire between the PCM and the lamp.
- Short to ground or short to voltage on the lamp control circuit.
- Faulty PTO engagement switch or sensor sending incorrect signals to the PCM.
- Internal PCM driver failure for the lamp control circuit.
- Poor ground connection for the lamp or PTO system.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the PTO engaged lamp operation by activating the PTO and observing the lamp; if it never lights, inspect the bulb first.
- 2 Check the lamp bulb or LED and replace if faulty, then clear the code and retest.
- 3 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors between the PCM and the lamp for damage, corrosion, or loose pins; repair as needed.
- 4 Test the lamp control circuit for continuity, short to ground, and short to voltage using a multimeter; compare with manufacturer specifications.
- 5 Test the PTO engagement switch and related sensors for proper operation and signal output; replace if defective.
- 6 If all external circuits and components test good, check for PCM software updates or internal driver faults; consult service information for further diagnostics.

PTO lamp circuit pitfalls and hidden causes

- A burned-out PTO engaged lamp bulb is the most common cause, yet many technicians jump to replacing the PCM before checking the simple bulb.
- Corroded connectors at the PTO switch or lamp assembly often mimic a failed PCM driver, especially on vehicles exposed to harsh environments.
- The PTO engaged lamp circuit may share a ground with other dashboard indicators, so a bad ground can cause multiple lamps to behave erratically.
- Aftermarket PTO installations or modifications frequently introduce wiring faults that trigger this code, so always inspect for non-factory wiring.
- The PCM may set P260D even when the lamp works intermittently due to a loose connection, so wiggle-testing the harness while monitoring the lamp is a valuable step.

Can I keep driving with P260D?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive because the PTO engaged lamp is an indicator and does not affect engine or transmission operation, but avoid using the PTO system until the fault is repaired to prevent unexpected engagement or safety hazards.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wiring diagram for the PTO circuit
- Socket set and trim removal tools



Reading P260D

- 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.
- 0D** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0642 Sensor Reference Voltage 'A' Circuit Low · **P0652** Sensor Reference Voltage 'B' Circuit Low · **P260E** Particulate Filter Regeneration Lamp Control Circuit · **P260F** EVAP System Monitoring Processor Performance · **P2610** ECM/PCM Internal Engine Off Timer Performance

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Car Relay Test Bench: Test 4-Pin and 5-Pin Relays](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p260d/>

