

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P262B

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P262B

Control Module Power Off Timer Performance

P262B indicates that a control module has detected a fault in its internal power-off timer circuit, which is responsible for confirming that the module shuts down completely after the ignition is turned off. The module monitors the timer's performance and sets this code when the timer signal is missing, erratic, or does not match the expected shutdown sequence.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light or service vehicle soon message
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light
- Intermittent electrical issues such as flickering interior lights or accessories remaining powered after shutdown
- Battery drain if the module fails to power down completely
- Unexplained warning lights or communication errors on the network
- No-start condition in rare cases if the module remains active and drains the battery

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty control module internal timer circuit
- 2 Corroded or damaged power or ground connections at the module
- 3 Low battery voltage or poor charging system performance
- 4 Water intrusion or connector contamination at the module
- 5 Software corruption or outdated module calibration
- 6 Wiring harness damage between the module and power source

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify battery voltage and charging system output; recharge or replace battery if needed
- 2 Inspect and clean module power and ground connections, checking for corrosion or looseness
- 3 Check for water intrusion or damaged connectors at the module and repair as necessary
- 4 Perform a voltage drop test on the module's power and ground circuits to confirm integrity
- 5 Reprogram or update the control module software if a calibration bulletin applies
- 6 Replace the control module if internal timer failure is confirmed after all external checks
- 7 Clear codes and perform a road test to verify the repair



Timer faults often mimic battery drain issues

- A module that fails to power down can drain the battery overnight, so this code is sometimes found only after a no-start complaint rather than a warning light.
- Many technicians replace the module prematurely when the real cause is a weak battery or corroded ground that disrupts the timer's voltage reference.
- The power-off timer is often part of the module's internal watchdog circuit, so the code can set intermittently and may not reappear during a short test drive.
- Scan tool data may show the module staying awake after key-off, which is a more reliable indicator than the code alone.
- This code can be set by a low-voltage event during engine cranking, so always check for a weak battery before condemning the module.

Can I keep driving with P262B?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive because the fault affects module shutdown rather than engine operation, but prolonged driving with a module that stays awake can drain the battery and leave you stranded. Address the issue promptly and avoid leaving the vehicle parked for long periods until repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Battery load tester
- Test light
- Trim removal tools
- Factory service information or wiring diagrams

Reading P262B

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.

2B The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0562 System Voltage Low · **P0563** System Voltage High · **P2610** ECM/PCM Internal Engine Off Timer Performance · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Engine Cooling System Trainer: How Engines Stay Cool](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p262b/>

