

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P262F

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P262F

Sensor Reference Voltage G Circuit Range/Performance

P262F indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an out-of-range or performance fault in the reference voltage circuit designated 'G', which supplies a stable voltage to one or more sensors. The PCM monitors this circuit and sets the code when the voltage falls outside the expected range or behaves erratically, potentially affecting sensor readings and engine management.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Computer and output circuits

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- Rough engine idle or hesitation during acceleration if the affected sensor is critical to fuel delivery.
- Poor fuel economy or increased emissions due to incorrect sensor data.
- Intermittent stalling or difficulty starting in severe cases.
- Erratic operation of accessories or systems that share the reference voltage circuit.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A short to ground or power in the reference voltage wiring, often due to chafed insulation or damaged connectors.
- 2 Corroded or loose electrical connectors at the sensor or PCM, causing high resistance.
- 3 A faulty sensor that internally shorts the reference voltage circuit, pulling the voltage out of range.
- 4 Failed PCM driver or internal circuit for the reference voltage, though this is less common.
- 5 Water intrusion or contamination in the wiring harness or connector, leading to intermittent faults.
- 6 Aftermarket accessories improperly tapped into the reference voltage circuit, causing excessive load.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of the wiring harness and connectors related to the 'G' reference voltage circuit for damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 2 Use a digital multimeter to measure the reference voltage at the sensor connector with the key on, engine off, comparing to the manufacturer's specification.
- 3 Disconnect sensors one by one on the affected circuit to see if the voltage returns to normal, isolating a shorted sensor.
- 4 Check for continuity and resistance in the wiring between the PCM and sensor, looking for opens or excessive resistance.
- 5 Inspect for aftermarket accessories or modifications that may be loading the circuit, and remove or repair as needed.
- 6 If the PCM is suspected, verify powers and grounds to the PCM and perform pinpoint tests before replacement.
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to confirm the repair, monitoring live data for the reference voltage.

Reference Voltage Circuit G: Common Oversights

- A shorted sensor on the same reference voltage circuit can pull down the voltage for all sensors sharing it, causing multiple codes and misleading you to replace the PCM.
- The 'G' circuit may be shared with non-engine systems such as transmission or body sensors, so faults can originate outside the engine harness.
- Intermittent faults often occur due to wire chafing near sharp edges or hot components, which may not show up during a static test; a wiggle test while monitoring voltage can reveal them.
- Aftermarket alarms or audio equipment tapped into the reference voltage can overload the circuit and set P262F without any factory component failure.
- A weak battery or poor ground can cause reference voltage fluctuations that mimic a circuit fault, so always verify battery and ground integrity first.

Can I keep driving with P262F?

If the check engine light is on but the vehicle runs normally, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop. If you experience rough running, stalling, or multiple warning lights, avoid driving and seek professional diagnosis to prevent further damage.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter (DMM)
- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Test light
- Electrical contact cleaner and dielectric grease



Reading P262F

- 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.
- 2F** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0641 Sensor Reference Voltage 'A' Circuit/Open · **P0651** Sensor Reference Voltage 'B' Circuit/Open · **P06A6** Sensor Reference Voltage A Circuit Range/Performance · **P06A7** Sensor Reference Voltage B Circuit Range/Performance · **P06A8** Sensor Reference Voltage C Circuit Range/Performance

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Excavator Simulator: Hydraulics You Can Operate](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p262f/>

