

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P263F

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P263F

Glow Plug Control Module 2 Over Temperature

P263F indicates that the glow plug control module 2 has reported an internal over-temperature condition to the engine control module. The module monitors its own temperature and sets this code when it exceeds a calibrated threshold, typically due to excessive current draw, poor cooling, or an internal fault.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light or glow plug warning lamp
- Hard starting or rough running when cold, especially in diesel engines
- Extended cranking times before the engine fires
- White smoke from the exhaust after a cold start
- Reduced fuel economy during warm-up
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A shorted or low-resistance glow plug causing excessive current draw
- 2 Faulty glow plug control module 2 with an internal thermal fault
- 3 Damaged or corroded wiring between the module and glow plugs creating resistance
- 4 Poor electrical ground connection for the control module
- 5 Restricted airflow or debris blocking cooling of the module
- 6 A charging system fault causing low voltage and increased current draw
- 7 Aftermarket or incorrect glow plugs with wrong resistance specifications



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored and pending codes, and record freeze-frame data for P263F
- 2 Inspect the glow plug control module 2 connectors and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Measure the resistance of each glow plug and compare to the manufacturer's specification
- 4 Check the module's ground circuit for excessive voltage drop under load
- 5 Verify charging system voltage and battery condition to rule out low-voltage-induced overcurrent
- 6 Test the control module's temperature sensor signal or substitute a known-good module if accessible
- 7 Replace the glow plug control module 2 and clear codes, then verify the repair with a cold-start test

Why glow plug modules overheat without warning

- A single glow plug with resistance that has drifted low can draw enough extra current to overheat the module without ever setting a glow plug circuit code.
- The module's over-temperature protection may derate or shut down glow plug operation entirely, so the driver notices cold-start problems rather than a module-specific fault.
- Corroded ground connections are a frequent hidden cause because they raise resistance and force the module to work harder, yet they often pass a simple visual inspection.
- Aftermarket glow plugs with incorrect resistance are a common misdiagnosis trap; always compare against the original equipment specification rather than a generic listing.
- P263F can be set by a module that is actually healthy but mounted in a location with poor airflow or debris buildup, so check the mounting area before condemning the part.

Can I keep driving with P263F?

You can usually drive the vehicle, but cold starting may become difficult and repeated over-temperature events can damage the control module further. Avoid long cranking sessions and have the fault diagnosed soon, especially if the engine runs rough or produces smoke when cold.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage-drop functions
- Glow plug resistance tester or clamp meter
- Manufacturer wiring diagrams for the glow plug circuit
- Basic hand tools for connector and module access



Reading P263F

- 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.
- 3F** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0380 Glow Plug/Heater Circuit A Malfunction · **P0670** Glow Plug Module Control Circuit · **P0671** Cylinder 1 Glow Plug Circuit · **P263E** Glow Plug Control Module 1 Over Temperature · **P2640** Torque Management Feedback Signal 'A' High

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an EGR Valve Works: Exhaust Gas Recirculation](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p263f/>

