

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P264E

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P264E

A Rocker Arm Actuator Position Sensor Circuit Intermittent/Erratic Bank 1

P264E indicates that the powertrain control module has detected an intermittent or erratic signal from the rocker arm actuator position sensor on bank 1. This sensor monitors the position of the rocker arm actuator, which is part of a variable valve timing or cylinder deactivation system, and the circuit is not providing a stable, consistent voltage reading.

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, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- Rough idle or misfire, particularly when the engine is cold or under light load.
- Reduced engine performance or power, especially during acceleration.
- Poor fuel economy due to improper valve timing.
- In rare cases, the engine may enter limp mode or stall.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty rocker arm actuator position sensor.
- 2 Damaged or chafed wiring in the sensor circuit, causing intermittent connections.
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connectors at the sensor or PCM.
- 4 Oil sludge or debris obstructing the actuator mechanism, causing erratic sensor readings.
- 5 Internal mechanical wear in the rocker arm actuator assembly.
- 6 PCM software issues or internal faults (less common).

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of the sensor, wiring, and connectors for damage or corrosion.
- 2 Use a scan tool to monitor live data from the rocker arm actuator position sensor and check for erratic readings.
- 3 Check for technical service bulletins (TSBs) or software updates for the PCM related to this code.
- 4 Test the sensor with a multimeter to verify its resistance and voltage output according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- 5 Inspect the actuator mechanism for mechanical binding or sludge buildup; clean or replace as necessary.
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring and connectors, then clear the code and retest.
- 7 If all else fails, replace the rocker arm actuator position sensor and verify the repair.



Intermittent Sensor Codes Need Patience

- An intermittent code like P264E often results from a poor electrical connection rather than a failed sensor, so always check connectors and wiring before replacing parts.
- Oil quality and maintenance play a critical role; sludge can interfere with the actuator's movement and cause erratic sensor signals without setting a mechanical code.
- The rocker arm actuator position sensor is sometimes integrated into the actuator assembly, making replacement more costly, so proper diagnosis is essential.
- This code can be set by a momentary glitch that may not recur, so clearing the code and test-driving under the same conditions is a valid first step.
- Related codes such as P264D (circuit range/performance) or P264F (circuit high) may also be present, indicating a broader circuit issue.

Can I keep driving with P264E?

If the check engine light is on but the engine runs smoothly, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing. If you experience rough running, misfires, or reduced power, stop driving and seek professional diagnosis to prevent potential engine damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Basic hand tools (screwdrivers, ratchet set)
- Electrical contact cleaner
- Service manual or wiring diagram for the specific vehicle

Reading P264E

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.
4E	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0300 Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P264B** A Rocker Arm Actuator Position Sensor Circuit Range/Performa · **P264C** A Rocker Arm Actuator Position Sensor Circuit Low Bank 1 · **P264D** A Rocker Arm Actuator Position Sensor Circuit High Bank 1 · **P264F** Engine Serial Number Not Programmed or Incompatible



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Drive-by-Wire Works: Electronic Throttle Body](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p264e/>

