

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P2E56

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P2E56

Exhaust Pressure Sensor C Circuit Low

P2E56 means the engine control module has detected a low-voltage condition on the signal circuit of the exhaust pressure sensor C, which is one of the sensors used to monitor backpressure in the exhaust system. The computer expects a voltage within a specific range and sees the circuit pulled below the minimum threshold, indicating a short to ground, an open circuit, or a faulty sensor.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Hybrid propulsion

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced engine power or limp mode in some vehicles
- Poor fuel economy or sluggish acceleration
- Black smoke or excessive soot from the tailpipe
- Frequent regeneration attempts or a regeneration-incomplete message on diesel vehicles
- Rough running or hesitation under load

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty exhaust pressure sensor C
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the sensor
- 3 Short to ground in the signal circuit
- 4 Open circuit in the signal or reference voltage circuit
- 5 Excessive backpressure from a clogged diesel particulate filter or restricted exhaust
- 6 Water or debris intrusion into the sensor connector
- 7 Loose or poor ground connection for the sensor

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the sensor connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 2 Check the sensor reference voltage and ground at the connector with a multimeter
- 3 Measure the signal voltage with the key on and engine off, comparing to the manufacturer's specification
- 4 Perform a wiggle test on the harness while monitoring the signal voltage to reveal intermittent faults
- 5 Check for exhaust restrictions, such as a clogged particulate filter, that could skew sensor readings
- 6 Replace the exhaust pressure sensor if the circuit tests good but the signal remains out of range
- 7 Clear the code and verify the repair with a test drive and live data review



What the exhaust pressure sensor C really measures

- This sensor often shares a five-volt reference and ground with other sensors, so a fault in a neighbouring circuit can pull the signal low and set this code.
- A clogged diesel particulate filter can cause the sensor to read abnormally high pressure, but a shorted sensor signal can also mimic a low-pressure condition, leading to misdiagnosis.
- The code can be set by a poor ground connection at the sensor mounting bolt, which is easy to overlook when replacing the sensor.
- On some vehicles, the exhaust pressure sensor is used for both backpressure and particulate filter monitoring, so a low signal can disable regeneration and cause secondary codes.
- After replacing the sensor, a relearn or adaptation reset may be required on certain models to prevent the code from returning.

Can I keep driving with P2E56?

You can usually drive the vehicle with this code, but avoid heavy loads and long trips until it is repaired, because continued driving may lead to reduced engine power or damage to the exhaust aftertreatment system.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle
- Socket set and wrenches
- Contact cleaner and dielectric grease

Reading P2E56

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
2	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
E	Hybrid propulsion.
56	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P2002 Particulate Trap Efficiency Below Threshold (Bank 1) · **P2453** Diesel Particulate Filter Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Perf · **P2454** Diesel Particulate Filter Pressure Sensor Circuit Low · **P2E55** Exhaust Pressure Sensor C Circuit Range/Performance · **P2E57** Exhaust Pressure Sensor C Circuit High



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Catalytic Converter Works: 3D Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p2e56/>

