

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1205

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1205 · Volkswagen

Cylinder 5 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction

P1205 on Volkswagen vehicles indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected an electrical fault in the fuel injector circuit for cylinder 5. This means the ECM is not seeing the expected current flow or voltage pattern when it commands the injector to fire, which can prevent that cylinder from receiving fuel.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Volkswagen specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

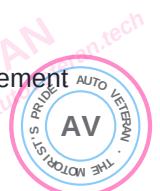
- Check engine light illuminated, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or misfire, especially noticeable at idle or low speeds
- Loss of power or hesitation during acceleration
- Increased fuel consumption due to incomplete combustion
- Engine may run rough or stumble under load
- In some cases, the engine may enter limp mode to protect the catalytic converter

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty fuel injector on cylinder 5 (open or shorted coil)
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness connector at the injector
- 3 Broken or chafed wire in the injector circuit between the ECM and injector
- 4 Failed engine control module (ECM) driver for that injector
- 5 Poor electrical connection at the ECM connector
- 6 Aftermarket or damaged injector with incorrect resistance

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for fault codes and record freeze-frame data to confirm the fault is current
- 2 Perform a visual inspection of the cylinder 5 injector connector and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 3 Measure the resistance of the cylinder 5 injector and compare to the manufacturer's specification
- 4 Check the injector circuit for shorts to ground or power and for open circuits using a multimeter
- 5 Test the injector driver signal from the ECM with an oscilloscope or noid light
- 6 If the circuit and injector test good, suspect the ECM and perform further diagnostics before replacement
- 7 Replace the faulty injector or repair the wiring as needed, then clear codes and verify the repair



Don't overlook the injector connector

- A loose or corroded connector at the injector is a common cause that can mimic a failed injector, so always inspect and clean the terminals before condemning the part.
- The code can be set by a momentary electrical glitch that does not affect driveability, so intermittent faults may require wiggle-testing the harness while monitoring live data.
- On some Volkswagen engines, the injector wiring harness is routed near hot components and can suffer heat damage, leading to intermittent shorts.
- A failed ECM driver is rare but possible; always rule out wiring and injector faults before replacing the ECM.
- This code is specific to cylinder 5, so if misfire codes for other cylinders are present, look for a common cause such as fuel pressure or ignition issues.

Can I keep driving with P1205?

Driving with P1205 is possible but not recommended because the misfire can damage the catalytic converter and reduce engine performance. Avoid heavy acceleration and prolonged driving until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Noid light or oscilloscope
- Wire repair kit
- Socket set and trim removal tools

Reading P1205

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
1	Manufacturer-specific code (Volkswagen): its meaning depends on the make.
2	Fuel and air metering (injector circuits).
05	The exact fault within that area.



Often seen with

P1204 Cylinder 4 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1203** Cylinder 3 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Misfire · **P1204** Cylinder 4 Misfire · **P1203** Cylinder 3 Misfire · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Misfire · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1203** Cylinder 3 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1204** Cylinder 4 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Misfire · **P1203** Cylinder 3 Misfire · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Misfire · **P1204** Cylinder 4 Misfire · **P1202** Alternative Fuel Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Low Frequency · **P1203** Alternative Fuel Gas Mass Sensor Circuit High Frequency · **P1201** Alternative Fuel Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Range Performance · **P1202** (Alternative Fuel) Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Low Frequency · **P1203** (Alternative Fuel) Gas Mass Sensor Circuit High Frequency · **P1201** (Alternative Fuel) Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0305** Cylinder 5 Misfire Detected

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Boxer Engine Works: Flat Engine Cutaway](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/volkswagen-p1205/>

