

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1404

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1404 · Volkswagen

EGR Flow Adaptation Not Carried Out

P1404 on Volkswagen vehicles means the engine control module (ECM) has not successfully completed the adaptive learning routine for the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) valve flow, so it cannot accurately trim the EGR command based on measured airflow. The ECM detects that the EGR adaptation values are missing or invalid, often after a battery disconnect, valve replacement, or repeated failed adaptation attempts.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Volkswagen
specific

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Auxiliary emission
controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- Slight rough idle or idle fluctuation when the EGR valve is commanded open.
- Intermittent hesitation or stumble during light-throttle acceleration.
- Reduced fuel economy in some cases due to incorrect EGR flow estimation.
- A stored pending code or a history code that returns after clearing without completing the adaptation drive cycle.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 EGR adaptation routine was never performed after a battery replacement, ECM replacement, or EGR valve service.
- 2 Carbon buildup on the EGR valve pintle or seat preventing the valve from reaching its learned closed and open positions.
- 3 Clogged or partially restricted EGR passage in the intake manifold or cylinder head.
- 4 Faulty EGR valve position sensor or a valve that sticks intermittently during the adaptation sweep.
- 5 Leaking or disconnected EGR vacuum line on vacuum-operated EGR systems.
- 6 Weak or failing battery causing the ECM to lose adaptive memory repeatedly.
- 7 Aftermarket or incorrect EGR valve that does not respond within the expected adaptation range.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify battery voltage and state of charge, then clear the code and confirm it is not a low-voltage memory loss issue.
- 2 Inspect the EGR valve and intake passages for carbon buildup and clean the valve seat and passages if restricted.
- 3 Check all EGR vacuum lines and electrical connectors for leaks, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 4 Use a scan tool to command the EGR valve through its full range and compare commanded versus actual position.
- 5 Perform the manufacturer-specified EGR adaptation or basic settings routine with a capable scan tool.
- 6 Complete the required drive cycle to allow the ECM to relearn EGR flow adaptation values.
- 7 If adaptation still fails, replace the EGR valve with an OEM-quality unit and repeat the adaptation procedure.

Why adaptation fails after EGR service

- Many technicians replace a perfectly good EGR valve because they never run the adaptation routine after installation, leaving P1404 stored even though the new valve works correctly.
- A weak battery or a voltage drop during the adaptation procedure can abort the learning process and set P1404 without any mechanical fault in the EGR system.
- Carbon buildup inside the EGR passage can limit valve travel just enough to fail adaptation while the valve still appears to move freely by hand.
- On some Volkswagen engines, P1404 appears after an ECM software update or replacement and simply requires the basic settings routine to be completed with a factory-level scan tool.
- This code does not always mean the EGR valve is faulty; it can be a memory or adaptation status flag that returns until a full drive cycle is completed.

Can I keep driving with P1404?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with P1404 because the fault affects EGR adaptation rather than causing a dangerous failure, but avoid long periods of stop-and-go driving until the adaptation is completed. Have the code addressed soon to prevent increased emissions and possible secondary EGR-related codes.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with Volkswagen-specific basic settings capability
- Digital multimeter for battery and sensor voltage checks
- Hand vacuum pump for testing vacuum-operated EGR valves
- Carburetor or intake cleaner and soft brushes for carbon removal
- Factory service information for the adaptation drive cycle procedure



Reading P1404

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (Volkswagen): its meaning depends on the make.
- 4** Auxiliary emission controls.
- 04** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1400 EGR Valve Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1401** EGR Valve Power Stage Short To Ground · **P1401** Sub-Throttle Position Sensor Range Performance Problem · **P1400** Sub-Throttle Position Sensor · **P1400** Fuel Tank Pressure Control Solenoid Low Input · **P1401** Fuel Tank Pressure Control System Performance · **P1400** EGRC Solenoid Valve · **P1401** EGR Temperature Sensor · **P1400** Manifold Differential Pressure Sensor Circuit · **P1401** EGR Lifting Sender B283 · **P1400** DPFE Sensor Circuit Low Input · **P1401** DPFE Sensor Circuit High Input · **P1401** EGR Control Solenoid Circuit Signal Low · **P1400** Exhaust Gas Recirculation Valve Position Control · **P1401** Exhaust Gas Recirculation Valve Position Circuit · **P1400** Differential Pressure Feedback Electronic Sensor Circuit Low · **P1401** Differential Pressure Feedback Electronic Sensor Circuit High · **P1400** Heated Catalyst Battery Voltage or Current Too Low During Heating · **P1401** Heated Catalyst Current Too High During Heating Bank 1 · **P0401** EGR Flow Insufficient Detected · **P0403** EGR Circuit Malfunction · **P0402** EGR Flow Excessive Detected

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How the EVAP System Works: Fuel Vapour and Leak Test](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/volkswagen-p1404/>

