

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1440

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1440 · Volkswagen

EGR Valve Power Stage Open

P1440 on Volkswagen vehicles means the engine control module (ECM) has detected an open circuit in the electrical path that powers the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) valve's internal power stage. The ECM commands the EGR valve to move, but the power stage—the driver circuit inside the valve or the wiring feeding it—is not completing the circuit, so the valve cannot be actuated.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Volkswagen
specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Auxiliary emission
controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or stumbling when the engine is cold, especially on gasoline models
- Slight hesitation or flat spot during light acceleration
- Increased nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions that may cause a state emissions test failure
- In some cases, a stored pending code without a hard fault until the circuit is loaded

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Broken, chafed, or corroded wire in the EGR valve power stage circuit, especially near the connector
- 2 Failed EGR valve power stage or internal solenoid winding
- 3 Loose or contaminated electrical connector at the EGR valve
- 4 Faulty engine control module (ECM) driver for the EGR circuit, though this is less common
- 5 Corrosion or water intrusion in the wiring harness near the EGR valve on older models

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Clear the code and test-drive to confirm whether P1440 returns as a hard fault or only under specific conditions
- 2 Visually inspect the EGR valve connector and wiring for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 3 Measure resistance across the EGR valve power stage terminals and compare to the manufacturer's specification
- 4 Check for battery voltage and ground at the EGR valve connector with the key on, using a wiring diagram
- 5 Perform a voltage drop test on the power and ground circuits to find excessive resistance
- 6 If wiring and connector are good, replace the EGR valve and clear the code
- 7 If the fault persists after valve replacement, diagnose the ECM driver circuit or internal ECM fault



What the power stage open really means

- The power stage is the final driver circuit inside the EGR valve that switches current to the solenoid; an open circuit there often means the valve has failed internally, not the wiring.
- A common misdiagnosis is replacing the EGR valve without checking the connector pins, which can be pushed back or corroded and mimic a failed power stage.
- On some Volkswagen engines, the EGR valve shares a ground with other components, so a bad ground elsewhere can set P1440 without any fault in the valve itself.
- P1440 can be stored intermittently by a momentary open circuit caused by engine vibration, so a wiggle test of the harness while monitoring live data is essential.
- This code does not always mean the EGR valve is stuck or clogged; it is strictly an electrical circuit fault, so cleaning the valve will not fix it.

Can I keep driving with P1440?

You can usually continue driving with P1440 because the EGR valve defaults to closed, but you may see reduced fuel economy and higher emissions. Avoid long periods of idling or heavy load until the fault is repaired, and address it promptly to prevent secondary codes or emissions test failure.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the specific Volkswagen model
- Test light or jumper wires
- Socket set and Torx bits for EGR valve removal

Reading P1440

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



Often seen with

P1441 EGR Valve Circuit Open Short To Ground · **P1442** EGR Valve Position Sensor Signal Too High · **P1441** Fuel Tank Pressure Control System High Input · **P1442** Fuel Level Sensor Circuit Range Performance · **P1441** Vacuum Cut Valve Bypass Valve · **P1441** ELC System 1 · **P1441** Evaporative Emission (EVAP) System Flow During Non-Purge · **P1442** EVAP Vacuum Switch High Voltage During Ignition On · **P1442** Secondary Air Injection System Monitor Circuit High Voltage · **P1441** Evaporative Emission (EVAP) System Flow During Non-Purge · **P1442** EVAP Vacuum Switch High Voltage During Ignition On · **P1441** Leakage Diagnostic Pump Control Open Circuit · **P1442** Leakage Diagnostic Pump Control Circuit Signal Low · **P0400** Exhaust Gas Recirculation Flow Malfunction · **P0401** EGR Flow Insufficient Detected · **P0403** EGR Circuit Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Cutaway: Intake to Exhaust](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/volkswagen-p1440/>

