

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1568

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1568 · Volkswagen

Idle Speed Control Throttle Position Mechanical Malfunction

P1568 on Volkswagen vehicles indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected a mechanical malfunction in the throttle position system that is used for idle speed control. The ECM monitors the throttle valve position and expects it to move to a specific angle during idle control, but the actual position does not match the commanded value within the allowed tolerance.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Volkswagen specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other symptoms
- Unstable or fluctuating idle speed
- Engine may stall when coming to a stop
- Hesitation or stumble during acceleration from idle
- Reduced engine power or limp mode in some cases

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Carbon buildup or sludge on the throttle plate and bore, restricting movement
- 2 Faulty throttle position sensor (TPS) or its wiring
- 3 Sticking or binding throttle valve due to worn linkage or return spring
- 4 Damaged or misadjusted throttle cable (on older cable-operated systems)
- 5 Failed electronic throttle control (ETC) actuator or motor
- 6 Corroded or damaged electrical connectors at the throttle body
- 7 ECM software issue or internal fault (less common)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored codes and freeze-frame data to confirm the fault conditions
- 2 Visually inspect the throttle body for carbon buildup and clean it with approved throttle body cleaner
- 3 Perform a throttle body adaptation or relearn procedure using a diagnostic scan tool
- 4 Check the throttle position sensor signal with a multimeter or oscilloscope for smooth operation
- 5 Inspect wiring and connectors between the throttle body and ECM for corrosion or damage
- 6 Test the electronic throttle actuator for proper movement and resistance
- 7 If all else fails, replace the throttle body assembly and re-adapt

Common Misdiagnosis Traps for P1568

- A dirty throttle body is the most frequent cause, but many technicians replace the entire unit before attempting a thorough cleaning and adaptation.
- The code can be set by a weak battery or charging system issue that causes the ECM to lose its learned throttle position values.
- After cleaning or replacement, a throttle body adaptation is mandatory; skipping this step will cause the code to return immediately.
- On some Volkswagen models, a faulty brake light switch or clutch switch can interfere with idle control and trigger this code indirectly.
- The throttle position sensor may test fine with a basic multimeter but still have intermittent dropouts that only an oscilloscope can reveal.

Can I keep driving with P1568?

You can usually drive the vehicle to a repair shop, but avoid aggressive acceleration and be prepared for possible stalling at idle. If the engine stalls frequently or enters limp mode, stop driving and seek professional assistance.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with Volkswagen-specific software
- Throttle body cleaner and clean rags
- Digital multimeter
- Oscilloscope (for signal analysis)
- Basic hand tools (screwdrivers, wrenches)



Reading P1568

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (Volkswagen): its meaning depends on the make.
- 5** Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs.
- 68** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1545 Throttle Position Control Malfunction · **P1553** Barometric Manifold Pressure Signal Ratio Out Of Range · **P1554** Idle Speed Control Throttle Position Missing Adaptation Cond · **P1553** Idle Air Control Valve Opening Coil High Voltage · **P1545** A/C Clutch Relay Control Circuit · **P1554** Cruise Engaged Circuit High Voltage · **P1545** A/C Clutch Relay Control Circuit · **P1554** Cruise Engaged Circuit High Voltage · **P1545** Pedal Position Sensor · **P2101** Throttle Actuator Control Motor Circuit Range/Performance · **P2135** Throttle/Pedal Position Sensor A/B Voltage Correlation

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Turbocharger Works, Step by Step](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/volkswagen-p1568/>

