

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1655

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1655 · Volkswagen

Check DTC Memory Of Distance Control ECU

P1655 on a Volkswagen means the engine control module (ECM) has been asked by the distance control ECU to check its own fault memory, and the ECM has stored this code to flag that request. The distance control ECU is the module behind adaptive cruise control, so the ECM is effectively reporting that the cruise-control radar system has logged a fault that needs attention.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Volkswagen specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Computer and output circuits

Symptoms you may notice

- Adaptive cruise control or distance control unavailable message in the instrument cluster
- Cruise control will not engage or drops out shortly after being set
- Forward collision warning or automatic emergency braking disabled
- Amber adaptive cruise control or front assist warning light illuminated
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with the car driving normally
- Intermittent warning that appears in rain, snow, or after a bump

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Fault stored in the distance control ECU itself, often a radar sensor alignment or communication fault
- 2 Misaligned or obstructed front radar sensor behind the grille badge
- 3 Damaged or corroded wiring between the distance control ECU and the ECM
- 4 Low or unstable battery voltage causing the distance control ECU to log spurious faults
- 5 Failed distance control ECU or a software issue requiring a flash update
- 6 CAN bus communication fault between modules that sets a companion code in the distance control ECU
- 7 Aftermarket grille, bumper, or front-end repair that disturbed the radar sensor mounting



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules, not just the engine, and read the fault memory of the distance control ECU to find the root code
- 2 Inspect the front radar sensor area for dirt, snow, damage, or a bent mounting bracket and clean or repair as needed
- 3 Check battery voltage and charging system, then clear codes and retest to rule out low-voltage spurious faults
- 4 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors between the distance control ECU and the ECM for corrosion or chafing
- 5 Perform radar sensor alignment or calibration with a scan tool if the sensor or bumper has been disturbed
- 6 Update the distance control ECU software if a technical bulletin applies to the vehicle
- 7 Replace the distance control ECU only after wiring, power, and alignment checks have passed

What the distance control ECU is really telling you

- P1655 is a request code, not a radar fault itself, so the real problem lives in the distance control ECU memory and must be read there.
- A dirty or snow-covered front radar cover can set this code without any hardware failure, so clean the sensor area before ordering parts.
- Many technicians replace the radar sensor when the actual cause is a weak battery or a poor ground that drops voltage during cranking.
- Front-end collision repair or a bumper replacement often leaves the radar bracket slightly bent, which sets P1655 after calibration is skipped.
- The code can appear alongside ABS or steering codes because adaptive cruise control shares wheel-speed and steering-angle data with those systems.

Can I keep driving with P1655?

The car remains safe to drive because P1655 disables adaptive cruise control and forward collision assist rather than affecting braking or steering, but you should not rely on cruise control until the fault is repaired. Avoid long trips that depend on driver-assist features and have the distance control ECU scanned soon.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with Volkswagen manufacturer-specific module access
- Digital multimeter for voltage and continuity checks
- Radar alignment or calibration tool compatible with the vehicle
- Basic hand tools for grille and bumper trim removal
- Battery load tester and charging system tester



Reading P1655

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (Volkswagen): its meaning depends on the make.
- 6** Computer and output circuits.
- 55** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1654 Check DTC Memory Of Control Panel ECU · **P1656** A/C Clutch Relays Circuit Short To Ground · **P1656** OCV Circuit · **P1656** Automatic Transmission System Malfunction · **P1656** Automatic Transmission System Malfunction · **P1654** Service Throttle Soon Lamp Control Circuit · **P1656** Driver 2 Line 6 · **P1656** CAN Link PCM Circuit Network · **P0562** System Voltage Low · **U0122** Lost Communication With Vehicle Dynamics Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Supercharger Works: Roots Blower in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/volkswagen-p1655/>

