

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1760

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1760 · Volkswagen

Shift Lock Malfunction

P1760 on Volkswagen vehicles indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected a malfunction in the shift lock system, which prevents the gear selector from moving out of Park unless the brake pedal is pressed. The computer monitors the shift lock solenoid circuit and the brake pedal position signal, and it sets this code when the expected electrical response is missing or implausible during the shift lock release sequence.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

**Volkswagen
specific**

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- The gear selector will not move out of Park even with the brake pedal pressed. The shift lock release button or override may be required to move the selector.
- A warning light or message on the instrument cluster, often the check engine light or a transmission fault message.
- The brake lights may not illuminate when the brake pedal is pressed.
- In some cases, the driver may notice no symptoms besides the warning light, as the shift lock may still function intermittently.
- The ignition key may not release from the ignition switch on models with a related shift lock feature.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty brake pedal position switch (brake light switch) not sending the correct signal to the TCM.
- 2 Defective shift lock solenoid or actuator in the gear selector assembly.
- 3 Wiring damage or corrosion in the shift lock circuit, including the harness from the brake switch to the TCM and to the shift lock solenoid.
- 4 Blown fuse or poor ground connection for the shift lock system.
- 5 Failed transmission control module (TCM) or body control module (BCM) not processing the shift lock request.
- 6 Mechanical binding or obstruction in the shift lock mechanism itself.
- 7 Aftermarket accessories or improper wiring repairs interfering with the shift lock circuit.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the brake lights operate correctly when the brake pedal is pressed; if not, test and replace the brake pedal position switch.
- 2 Check all fuses related to the shift lock system and replace any blown fuses.
- 3 Inspect the wiring and connectors at the brake switch, shift lock solenoid, and TCM for damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 4 Use a scan tool to monitor the brake pedal position sensor data and the shift lock solenoid command to confirm the TCM is receiving the correct inputs.
- 5 Test the shift lock solenoid for resistance and function; replace it if it does not actuate when 12 volts are applied.
- 6 Check for mechanical binding in the gear selector assembly and repair or replace components as needed.
- 7 If all inputs and outputs are correct, diagnose the TCM and its programming, and replace or reprogram if necessary.

Shift Lock Faults Often Misdiagnosed

- A failing brake light switch is the most common cause of P1760, but it may not always set a brake switch code, so testing the switch directly is essential.
- The shift lock solenoid can fail intermittently, working when cold but sticking when hot, which can make diagnosis challenging if the code is not currently active.
- On some Volkswagen models, the shift lock signal is routed through the body control module (BCM), so a BCM fault or communication issue can trigger P1760 even when the shift lock circuit itself is intact.
- Aftermarket alarm systems or remote starters that tap into the brake or shift lock wiring can introduce faults that mimic a failed component.
- The code may be stored without any drivability symptoms, leading some technicians to overlook the shift lock system during routine diagnostics.

Can I keep driving with P1760?

If the vehicle can be shifted out of Park using the manual override, you may drive it to a repair shop, but avoid parking on inclines where the shift lock is needed for safety. Do not continue driving if the shift lock malfunction prevents you from selecting gears normally, as this can be a safety hazard.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with Volkswagen-specific software
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Trim removal tools
- Wiring diagram for the specific model



Reading P1760

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (Volkswagen): its meaning depends on the make.
- 7** Transmission.
- 60** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1761 Shift Lock Short To Ground · **P1762** Shift Lock Short To B+ · **P1761** Transmission Shift Solenoid 3 Mechanical Fault · **P1762** Transmission SS3 SS4 OD Band Fault · **P1762** Governor Pressure Sensor Offset Improper Voltage · **P1761** Shift Solenoid C Performance · **P1762** Overdrive Band Failed Off · **P1762** Governor Pressure Sensor Offset Improper Voltage · **P1761** Shift Solenoid Malfunction · **P0571** Brake Switch 'A' Circuit · **P0703** Torque Converter/Brake Switch B Circuit Malfunction · **P0850** Park/Neutral Switch Input Circuit

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/volkswagen-p1760/>

