

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1763

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1763 · Volkswagen

Shift Lock Open

P1763 on Volkswagen vehicles means the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an open circuit in the shift lock solenoid circuit, which prevents the gear selector from moving out of Park. The computer monitors the solenoid's electrical path and flags an open when current flow is interrupted, often due to a broken wire, faulty solenoid, or poor connection.

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 solenoid does not click or actuate when the brake is applied
- The brake lights may work normally, but the shift lock remains engaged
- Intermittent ability to shift out of Park, especially in cold or wet weather
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the fault is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Broken or chafed wire in the shift lock solenoid circuit, commonly at the selector lever base
- 2 Failed shift lock solenoid coil (open winding)
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connector at the solenoid or TCM
- 4 Blown fuse supplying power to the shift lock solenoid circuit
- 5 Faulty brake pedal position switch not sending the release signal (though this usually sets a different code)
- 6 Internal TCM driver failure for the shift lock output



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the fuse that powers the shift lock solenoid circuit and replace if blown
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness from the TCM to the shift lock solenoid for chafing, breaks, or corrosion, especially near the selector lever
- 3 Disconnect the solenoid connector and measure resistance across the solenoid coil; compare to specification (typically 20–40 ohms) to confirm an open
- 4 Test for battery voltage at the solenoid connector with the brake pedal pressed to verify power and ground paths
- 5 Check the brake pedal position switch signal to the TCM, as a missing release signal can mimic a solenoid fault
- 6 If wiring and power are good, replace the shift lock solenoid
- 7 Clear the code and perform a road test to verify the repair and ensure the code does not return

Shift lock faults that fool good technicians

- A broken wire inside the shift lever boot is a common cause that visual inspection misses because the insulation looks intact until you flex the harness.
- The brake pedal switch can fail in a way that still operates the brake lights but does not send the release signal to the TCM, setting P1763 without any brake light symptom.
- Aftermarket alarm or remote start installations often splice into the shift lock circuit and create an open that only appears when the add-on module is active.
- P1763 can be stored intermittently by a loose ground connection at the transmission tunnel, so always check ground points before replacing the solenoid.
- A failed TCM driver for the shift lock output is rare but possible; confirm all wiring and the solenoid before condemning the TCM.

Can I keep driving with P1763?

You can usually drive the car if you can get it out of Park using the manual override, but the shift lock will not release normally and the car may not start in some cases. Avoid parking on steep hills where you rely on the shift lock, and have the fault repaired soon to prevent being stranded.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter
- Trim removal tool
- Torx and Phillips screwdrivers
- Test light
- Wiring diagram for the specific Volkswagen model



Reading P1763

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

Often seen with

P1762 Shift Lock Short To B+ · **P1762** Transmission SS3 SS4 OD Band Fault · **P1764** Low And Reverse Brake Failsafe Valve Malfunction · **P1762** Governor Pressure Sensor Offset Improper Voltage · **P1764** Governor Pressure Sensor Voltage Too Low · **P1762** Overdrive Band Failed Off · **P1762** Governor Pressure Sensor Offset Improper Voltage · **P1764** Governor Pressure Sensor Voltage Too Low · **P0703** Torque Converter/Brake Switch B Circuit Malfunction · **P0720** Output Speed Sensor 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-p1763/>

