

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1818

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1818 · Volkswagen

Pressure Control Solenoid 2 Electrical

P1818 on Volkswagen vehicles indicates that the transmission control module (TCM) has detected an electrical fault in the circuit for pressure control solenoid 2, which is used to regulate hydraulic pressure inside the automatic transmission. The TCM monitors the solenoid's current draw and expected response, and it sets this code when the measured electrical values fall outside the programmed limits, pointing to an open circuit, short circuit, or solenoid coil failure.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

**Volkswagen
specific**

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Professional

AREA

Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the transmission warning light or check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Harsh or delayed gear shifts, particularly when the transmission is cold
- The transmission may enter limp mode, sticking in a single gear or refusing to shift
- Slipping or flaring during acceleration as line pressure control is compromised
- Rough engagement when selecting Drive or Reverse from a stop

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty pressure control solenoid 2 inside the transmission valve body
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness connector at the transmission, often due to heat and fluid exposure
- 3 Chafed or broken wires between the TCM and the solenoid, typically near the transmission case
- 4 Contaminated transmission fluid causing solenoid sticking or altered electrical resistance
- 5 Internal valve body wear or debris blocking the solenoid's hydraulic circuit
- 6 Failed transmission control module (TCM) driver circuit, though this is less common



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored and pending codes, and record freeze-frame data to confirm the fault conditions
- 2 Check transmission fluid level and condition; top off or replace fluid if it is dark or contaminated
- 3 Inspect the transmission wiring harness and connector for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins, and repair as needed
- 4 Measure the resistance of pressure control solenoid 2 at the transmission connector and compare it to the manufacturer's specification
- 5 Perform a voltage drop test on the solenoid circuit under load to identify high resistance in the wiring
- 6 If electrical checks pass, remove the valve body and test the solenoid directly, replacing it if it fails
- 7 After repair, clear codes and perform a road test with live data monitoring to verify the solenoid operates correctly and the code does not return

What P1818 hides about solenoid circuits

- A corroded connector pin at the transmission often mimics a failed solenoid, so always inspect the plug before condemning the part.
- The TCM may set P1818 intermittently if the solenoid coil resistance drifts with temperature, so test the circuit both cold and after a road test.
- Debris from a failing torque converter can lodge in the solenoid valve, causing electrical symptoms that disappear after cleaning but return without a fluid flush.
- Some Volkswagen models require adaptation reset after solenoid replacement; skipping this step can leave harsh shifts that make the repair seem unsuccessful.
- P1818 can be triggered by a low battery or charging system fault that causes voltage spikes, so check the charging system before deep transmission diagnostics.

Can I keep driving with P1818?

You can usually drive the vehicle to a workshop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing because the transmission may be in limp mode and could slip under load. If shifts become severely harsh or the vehicle refuses to move, stop driving and arrange a tow to prevent further transmission damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage drop functions
- Transmission fluid level dipstick or scan tool fluid temperature reading
- Vehicle-specific wiring diagram for the transmission control circuit
- Basic hand tools and torque wrench for valve body access



Reading P1818

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

Often seen with

P1819 Pressure Control Solenoid 2 Open Short To Ground · **P1817** TFP Valve Position Switch Reverse With Drive Ratio · **P1819** Internal Mode Switch No Start Wrong Range · **P1819** Transmission Neutral Safety Switch Short Circuit To Ground · **P0700** Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0740** Torque Converter Clutch Circuit Malfunction · **P0741** Torque Converter Clutch Circuit Performance or Stuck Off

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Drive-by-Wire Works: Electronic Throttle Body](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/volkswagen-p1818/>

