



## FORD P1260: THEFT DETECTED - ENGINE DISABLED

### OVERVIEW

<b>Severity</b>	:	 Low
<b>DIY Difficulty Level</b>	:	 Beginner
<b>Repair Cost</b>	:	<b>\$15-\$150</b>
<b>Can I Still Drive?</b>	:	<b>Yes</b> (Short-term only)

### What Does The Ford P1260 Code Mean?

The P1260 code indicates a “Theft Detected – Engine Disabled” condition. It demonstrates that the Passive Anti-Theft System (PATS) system has identified a potential theft threat or an issue with the key’s recognition, leading to the engine being disabled as a protective measure.

The code also could be set if an installation of an instrument cluster (IC), instrument panel cluster (IPC), or PCM takes place without the proper programming of either module, regardless of whether the vehicle has PATS or not.

Besides, it’s essential to know what the PATS really is. According to Ford, this engine immobilization system deters anyone from starting the engine with an incorrectly coded key. Once someone attempts to start the car without the coded key, the engine will be disabled. The purpose of this is to prevent unauthorized access and protect against theft.

### What Are The Symptoms Of The Ford P1260 Code?

There are some symptoms if P1260 is set on your Ford:



Anti-theft light comes on on the dashboard.

- Blinking red or on solid anti-theft light
- [Check engine light illuminated](#)
- Engine not start
- Flickering gauges

## What Are The Potential Causes Of The Ford P1260 Code?

Causes of the P1260 Ford code may include:

- PCM is not programmed correctly
- IC or IPC is not programmed correctly
- Previous theft condition
- [Anti-theft system concern](#)

## How Can You Fix The Ford P1260 Code?

While it is highly recommended to have a qualified mechanic inspect your vehicle for any underlying issues that may require attention, there are some simple steps you can try before seeking professional assistance to save on expenses potentially.

### Step 1:

Attempt using another correctly coded key to determine if it resolves the issue.

### Step 2:

Disconnect the vehicle's battery for approximately one hour, then reconnect it.

### Step 3:

Perform two complete driving cycles by starting the engine, driving for at least 15 minutes, and then shutting it down. On the third start, the code should clear automatically. Sometimes, the CEL will turn off, but the code is not cleared.

If the code persists and the check engine light remains illuminated, it is best to take your car to a skilled mechanic for a thorough inspection and further diagnosis. Specifically, they can program your PCM, IPC, or IC correctly.

In conclusion, while the P1260 code in Ford vehicles is typically not considered a serious issue, it is important to address it promptly to ensure proper vehicle operation. Before seeking professional assistance, there are simple steps you can take. However, if the code persists and the check engine light remains on, it is recommended to have your vehicle inspected by a qualified mechanic. Remember, prioritizing maintenance and addressing any potential concerns promptly can help avoid more significant problems down the line.

### Severity Description

The P1260 code in Ford vehicles is generally **not considered a serious issue**. It typically indicates a temporary fault or an unauthorized attempt to start the vehicle.

So, can you still continue to drive the car or not? If you can still drive the car, then yes, you can continue to do so. However, it's important to note that the engine won't start in most cases, which means you may be unable to operate the vehicle.

### Reference Sources

[2007 Powertrain Control Emissions Diagnosis On Board Diagnosis](#) - Sections 4: Powertrain DTC Charts and Descriptions, P1260, page 97. [2012 Ford Fusion • MotoLogic](#) - P1260 - Theft Detected, Vehicle Immobilized.