

P0626: GENERATOR FIELD/F TERMINAL CIRCUIT HIGH

OVERVIEW

Severity	:	High
DIY Difficulty Level	:	Intermediate
Repair Cost	:	\$500-\$2700
Can I Still Drive?	:	Yes

What Does The P0626 Code Mean?

A stored code P0626 means that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a higher than expected voltage signal from the generator field coil circuit. The F simply reiterates the field coil control circuit is at fault.

The field coil is probably most recognizable from its windings which are visible through the vent holes on most alternators. The field coil surrounds the generator armature and remains stationary in the alternator housing. The armature spins inside the field coil which is energized using battery voltage. Each time the engine is started, the field coil is energized.

The PCM monitors the continuity and voltage level of the generator field circuit whenever the engine is running. The generator field coil is integral to generator operation and maintaining battery charge levels.

If a problem is detected in monitoring the generator field circuit, a code P0626 will be stored and a malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) may be illuminated,. Depending upon the perceived severity of the malfunction, multiple failure cycles may be necessary for MIL illumination.

What Are The Symptoms Of The P0626 Code?

Symptoms of a P0626 trouble code may include:

- Charging system lamp illumination

- Engine drivability issues
- Inadvertent engine shutoff
- Delayed engine cranking
- Other stored codes

What Are The Potential Causes Of The P0626 Code?

Causes for this code may include:

- Open or shorted generator field control circuit
- Blown fuse or burnt fusible link
- Defective alternator/generator
- Faulty PCM
- PCM programming error

How Can You Fix The P0626 Code?

A diagnostic scanner, a battery/alternator tester, a digital volt/ohmmeter (DVOM), and a source of reliable vehicle information will be required to diagnose a code P0626.

Consult your vehicle information source for technical service bulletins (TSB) that replicate the code stored, vehicle (year, make, model, and engine), and symptoms exhibited. If you find the appropriate TSB, it may yield helpful diagnostic.

Begin by connecting the scanner to the vehicle diagnostic port and retrieving all stored codes and freeze frame data. You will want to write this information down, just in case the code proves to be an intermittent one. After recording all pertinent information, clear the codes and test drive the vehicle until the code is reset or the PCM enters readiness mode. If the PCM enters readiness mode, the code is intermittent and will be more difficult to diagnose. The condition, which caused the P0626 to be stored, may even need to worsen before a diagnosis can be made. If the code is reset, continue with your diagnosis.

Use the battery/alternator tester to load-test the battery and make sure that it is sufficiently charged. If it is not, charge the battery as recommended and test the alternator/generator. Follow manufacturers recommended specifications for minimum and maximum voltage output requirements for the battery and alternator. If the alternator/generator is not charging, proceed to the next step in your diagnosis.

Use your source of vehicle information to obtain connector face views, connector pin-out charts, component locators, wiring diagrams, and diagnostic flow charts related to the code and vehicle in question.

Check to see if there is battery voltage on the alternator/generator field control circuit by using the

appropriate wiring diagram and your DVOM. If not check system fuses and relays and replace defective parts as required. If voltage is discovered at the generator field coil control terminal, suspect a defective alternator/generator.

- The field coil is an integral part of the alternator and cannot usually be replaced separately

Severity Description

A stored code P0626 could result in a variety of drivability concerns, including a no-start and/or dead battery condition. It should be classified as severe.

Reference Sources

[P0626 Generator Field/F Terminal Circuit High](#), OBD-Codes.