

P253A: PTO SENSE CIRCUIT /OPEN

OVERVIEW

Severity	:	Low
DIY Difficulty Level	:	Intermediate
Repair Cost	:	\$100-\$300
Can I Still Drive?	:	Yes

What Does The P253A Code Mean?

OBD-II trouble code P253A and related codes [P253B](#), [P253C](#), [P253D](#) and [P253E](#) are associated with the PTO or power take off sense circuit.

The PTO or power take-off is a system that is linked to the transmission of the vehicle and is used to drive auxiliary equipment. That auxiliary equipment might include things such as snow plows, dump beds, etc.

When the PCM detects improper voltage or resistance within the PTO sense circuit, code P253A will be set and the check engine light, service engine soon light or both may be illuminated.

What Are The Symptoms Of The P253A Code?

Symptoms of a P253A trouble code may include:

- Auxiliary PTO equipment will not function
- Check engine light illuminated

What Are The Potential Causes Of The P253A Code?

Causes for this P253A code may include:

- Defective PTO sensor

- Open or short in PTO sense circuit
- Faulty or damaged wiring
- Corroded, damaged or loose connector
- Defective fuse or fuse-able link (if applicable)
- Defective PCM

How Can You Fix The P253A Code?

The first step in the troubleshooting process for any malfunction is to research the Technical Service Bulletins (TSB's) for the specific vehicle by year, model and engine/transmission configuration. In some circumstances, this can save a lot of time in the long run by pointing you in the right direction.

The second step is to locate all components associated with the PTO power take-off circuit and look for obvious physical damage. Perform a thorough visual inspection to check the associated wiring for obvious defects such as scraping, rubbing, bare wires, or burn spots.

Next is to check the connectors and connections for security, corrosion and damaged pins. This process must include all wiring connectors and connections to all components including the PCM. Consult the specific tech data for the vehicle to verify the configuration of the oil level safety circuit and see if a fuse or fuse-able link is incorporated into the circuit.

Advanced Steps

The advanced steps become very vehicle specific and require the appropriate advanced equipment to perform accurately. These procedures require a digital multimeter and the specific technical references for the vehicle. In this situation, an oil pressure gauge may facilitate the troubleshooting process.

This article is strictly informational and the specific technical data and service bulletins for your vehicle should always take priority.

Severity Description

The severity of this code is generally not severe because it will likely only affect PTO functions but not regular vehicle functions.

Reference Sources

[P253A PTO Sense Circuit /Open](#), OBD-Codes.