

DTC	P0420	Catalyst System Efficiency Below Threshold (Bank 1)
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MONITOR DESCRIPTION

The ECM uses sensors mounted in front of and behind the Three-Way Catalytic Converter (TWC) to monitor its efficiency.

The first sensor, the Air-Fuel Ratio (A/F) sensor, sends pre-catalyst information to the ECM. The second sensor, the Heated Oxygen (HO2) sensor, sends post-catalyst information to the ECM.

In order to detect any deterioration in the TWC, the ECM calculates the Oxygen Storage Capacity (OSC) of the TWC. This calculation is based on the voltage output of the HO2 sensor while performing active air-fuel ratio control, rather than the conventional detecting method, which uses the locus ratio.

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The OSC value is an indication of the oxygen storage capacity of the TWC. When the vehicle is being driven with a warm engine, active air-fuel ratio control is performed for approximately 15 to 20 seconds. When it is performed, the ECM deliberately sets the air-fuel ratio to lean or rich levels. If the rich-lean cycle of the HO2 sensor is long, the OSC becomes greater. There is a direct correlation between the OSCs of the HO2 sensor and the TWC.

The ECM uses the OSC value to determine the state of the TWC. If any deterioration has occurred, it illuminates the MIL and sets the DTC.

DTC No.	DTC Detection Conditions	Trouble Areas
P0420	OSC value smaller than standard value under active air-fuel ratio control (2 trip detection logic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front exhaust pipe (with TWC) Gas leakage from exhaust system Air-Fuel Ratio (A/F) sensor (sensor 1) Heated Oxygen (HO2) sensor (sensor 2)

MONITOR STRATEGY

Related DTCs	P0420: Catalyst Deterioration
Required Sensors/Components (Main)	A/F sensor and HO2 sensor
Required Sensors/Components (Related)	Intake air temperature sensor, mass air flow meter, crankshaft position sensor and engine coolant temperature sensor
Frequency of Operation	Once per driving cycle
Duration	About 30 seconds
MIL Operation	2 driving cycles
Sequence of Operation	None

TYPICAL ENABLING CONDITIONS

Monitor runs whenever following DTCs not present	P0011 (VVT System 1 - Advance) P0012 (VVT System 1 - Retard) P0031, 32 (A/F Sensor heater - Sensor 1) P0037, 38 (O2 Sensor heater - Sensor 2) P0100 - P0103 (MAF meter) P0115 - P0118 (ECT sensor) P0120 - P0223, P2135 (TP sensor) P0125 (Insufficient ECT for Closed Loop) P0136 (O2 Sensor - Sensor 2) P0171, P0172 (Fuel system) P0300 - P0304 (Misfire) P0335 (CKP sensor) P0340 (CMP sensor) P0351 - P0354 (Igniter) P0500 (VSS) P2196 (A/F Sensor - rationality) P2A00 (A/F Sensor - slow response)
Battery voltage	11 V or more
Intake air temperature	-10°C (14°F) or more

Engine coolant temperature	75°C (167°F) or more
Atmospheric pressure	76 kPa (570 mmHg) or more
Idling	OFF
Engine RPM	Less than 4,000 rpm
A/F sensor status	Activated
Fuel system status	Closed loop
Engine load	10 to 80 %
All of following conditions (a), (b) and (c) met	-
(a) Mass air flow rate	2.5 to 40 g/sec.
(b) Estimated front catalyst temperature	650° to 840°C (1,202° to 1,544°F)
(c) Estimated rear catalyst temperature	400° to 770°C (752° to 1,418°F)
Rear HO2 sensor heater monitor	Completed
Shift position	4th

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TYPICAL MALFUNCTION THRESHOLDS

Oxygen Storage Capacity (OSC) of Three-Way Catalytic Converter (TWC)	Less than 0.07 g
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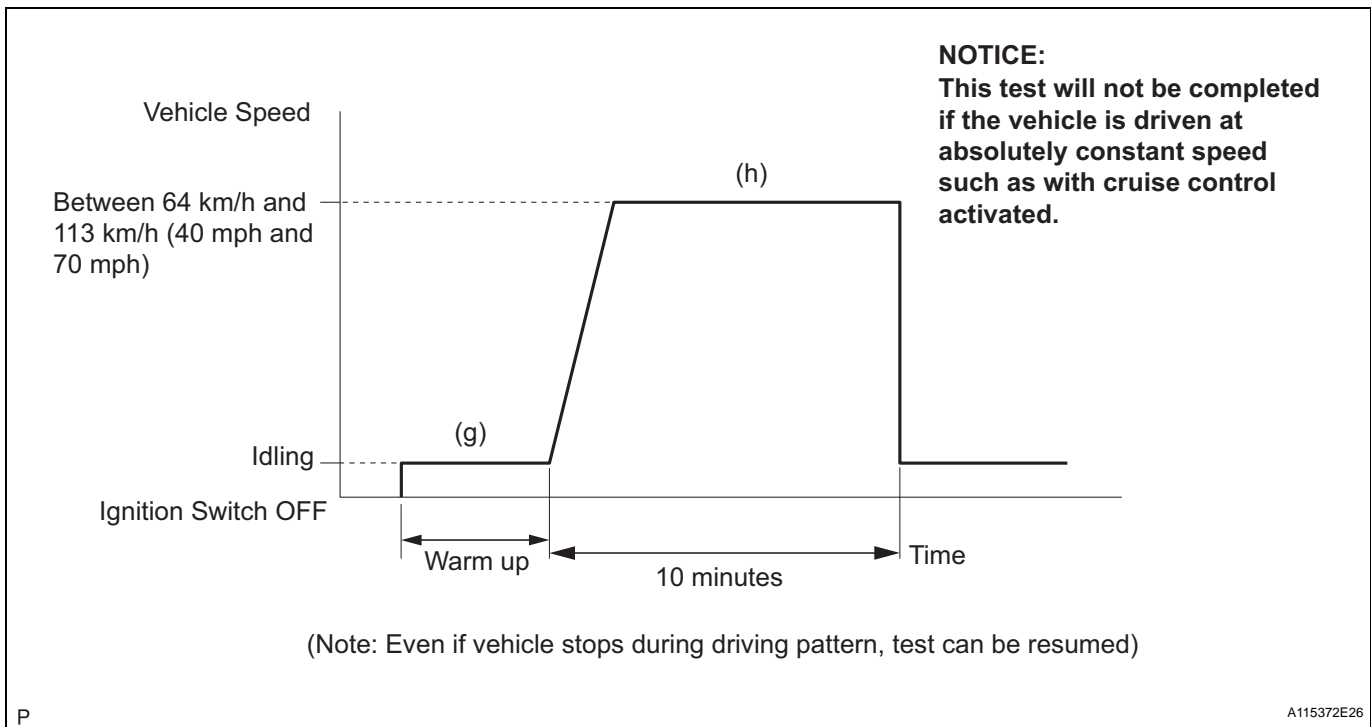
MONITOR RESULT

Refer to CHECKING MONITOR STATUS (see page [ES-17](#)).

CONFIRMATION DRIVING PATTERN

HINT:

Performing this confirmation pattern will activate the catalyst monitor. This is very useful for verifying the completion of a repair.



READINESS TESTS	
MISFIRE MON	AVAIL
FUEL SYS MON	AVAIL
COMP MON	AVAIL
CAT EVAL	INCMPL
HTD CAT EVAL	N/A
EVAP EVAL	INCMPL
2nd AIR EVAL	N/A
A/C EVAL	N/A
O2S EVAL	INCMPL
O2S HTR EVAL	INCMPL
EGR EVAL	N/A

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(a) Connect the intelligent tester to the DLC3.

(b) Turn the ignition switch ON.

(c) Turn the tester ON.

(d) Clear DTCs (if set) (see page [ES-35](#)).

(e) Select the following menu items: DIAGNOSIS / ENHANCED OBD II / DATA LIST / USER DATA / CAT CMPL.

(f) Check that CAT CMPL is INCMPL (incomplete).

(g) Start the engine and warm it up.

(h) Drive the vehicle at between 64 km/h and 113 km/h (40 mph and 70 mph) for at least 10 minutes.

(i) Note the state of the Readiness Tests items. Those items will change to COMPL (complete) as CAT CMPL monitor operates.

(j) On the tester, select the following menu items: DIAGNOSIS / ENHANCED OBD II / DTC INFO / PENDING CODES and check if any DTCs (any pending DTCs) are set.

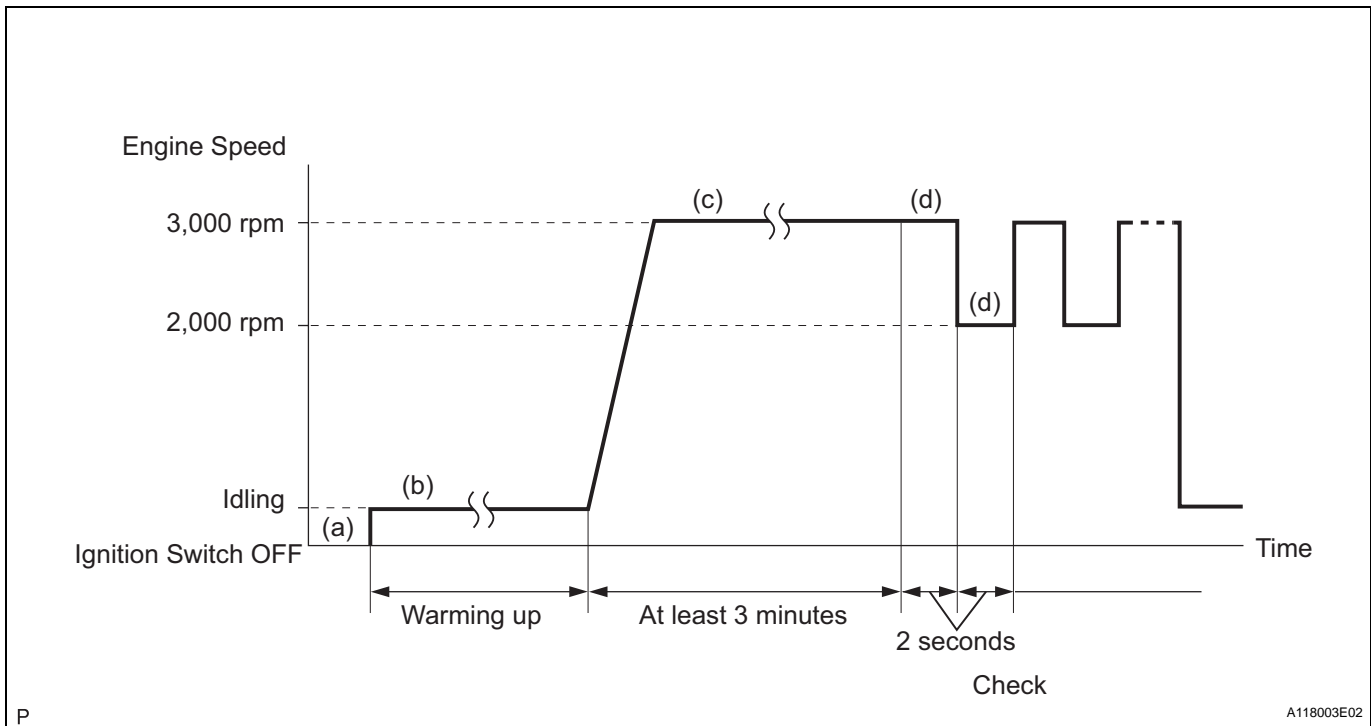
HINT:

If CAT CMPL does not change to COMPL, and any pending DTCs fail to set, extend the driving time.

CONDITIONING FOR SENSOR TESTING

HINT:

Perform the operation with the engine speeds and time durations described below prior to checking the waveforms of the A/F and HO2 sensors. This is in order to activate the sensors sufficiently to obtain the appropriate inspection results.



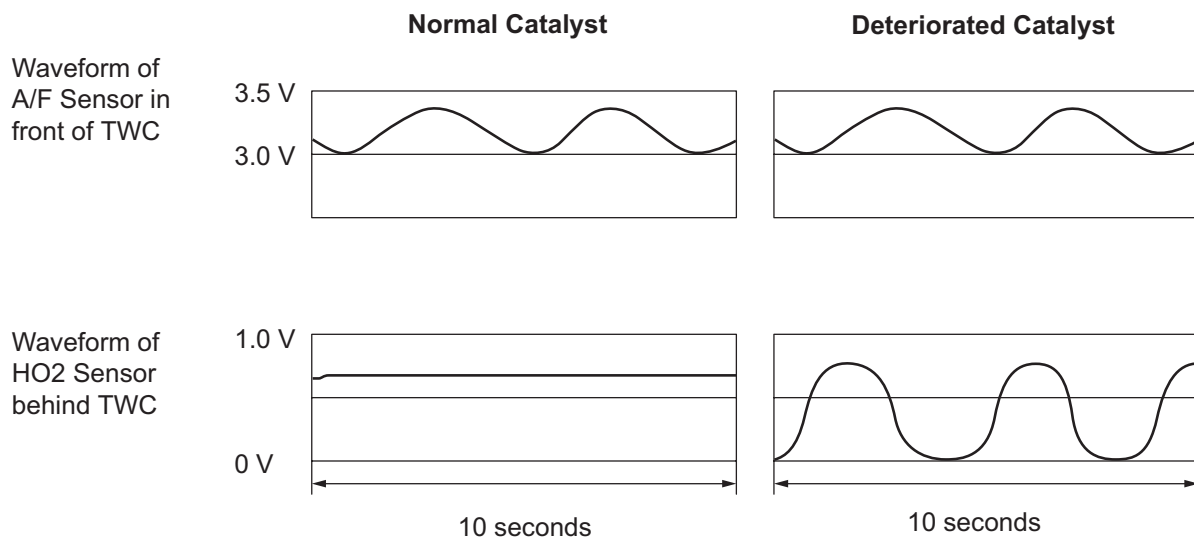
(a) Connect the intelligent tester to the DLC3.

- (b) Start the engine and warm it up with all the accessories switched OFF, until the engine coolant temperature stabilizes.
- (c) Run the engine at an engine speed of between 2,500 rpm and 3,000 rpm for at least 3 minutes.
- (d) While running the engine at 3,000 rpm and 2,000 rpm alternating at 2 second intervals, check the waveforms of the A/F and HO2 sensors using the tester.

HINT:

- If either voltage output of the Air-Fuel Ratio (A/F) or Heated Oxygen (HO2) sensor does not fluctuate, or there is a noise in the waveform of either sensor, the sensor may be malfunctioning.
- If the voltage outputs of both the sensors remain lean or rich, the air-fuel ratio may be extremely lean or rich. In such cases, perform the following A/F CONTROL using the intelligent tester.
- If the Three-Way Catalytic Converter (TWC) has deteriorated, the HO2 sensor (located behind the TWC) voltage output fluctuates up and down frequently, even under normal driving conditions (active air-fuel ratio control is not performed).

Voltage output when active air-fuel ratio control not performed:



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INSPECTION PROCEDURE

HINT:

Read freeze frame data using the intelligent tester. Freeze frame data records the engine condition when malfunctions are detected. When troubleshooting, freeze frame data can help determine if the vehicle was moving or stationary, if the engine was warmed up or not, if the air-fuel ratio was lean or rich, and other data from the time the malfunction occurred.

1

CHECK ANY OTHER DTCS OUTPUT (IN ADDITION TO DTC P0420)

- Connect the intelligent tester to the DLC3.
- Turn the ignition switch ON and turn the tester ON.
- Select the following menu items: DIAGNOSIS / ENHANCED OBD II / DTC INFO / CURRENT CODES.
- Read DTCs.

Result

Display (DTC Output)	Proceed To
P0420	A

Display (DTC Output)	Proceed To
P0420 and other DTCs	B

HINT:

If any DTCs other than P0420 are output, troubleshoot those DTCs first.

B

GO TO DTC CHART

A

2

PERFORM ACTIVE TEST USING INTELLIGENT TESTER (A/F CONTROL)

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- Connect the intelligent tester to the DLC3.
- Start the engine and turn the tester ON.
- Warm up the engine at an engine speed of 2,500 rpm for approximately 90 seconds.
- On the tester, select the following menu items:
DIAGNOSIS / ENHANCED OBD II / ACTIVE TEST / A/F CONTROL.
- Perform the A/F CONTROL operation with the engine in an idling condition (press the RIGHT or LEFT button to change the fuel injection volume).
- Monitor the voltage outputs of the A/F and HO2 sensors (AFS B1 S1 and O2S B1 S2) displayed on the tester.

Result:

A/F sensor reacts in accordance with increases and decreases in fuel injection volume:

+25 % = Rich output:









Less than 3.0 V






-12.5 % = Lean output:

More than 3.35 V

NOTICE:

The A/F sensor has an output delay of a few seconds and the HO2 sensor has a maximum output delay of approximately 20 seconds.

Case	A/F Sensor (Sensor 1) Output Voltage		HO2 Sensor (Sensor 2) Output Voltage		Main Suspected Trouble Areas
1	Injection Volume +25 % -12.5 %		Injection Volume +25 % -12.5 %		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catalyst Exhaust gas leakage
	Output Voltage More than 3.35 V Less than 3.0 V		Output Voltage More than 0.5 V Less than 0.4 V		
2	Injection Volume +25 % -12.5 %		Injection Volume +25 % -12.5 %		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/F sensor A/F sensor heater A/F sensor circuit
	Output Voltage Almost no reaction		Output Voltage More than 0.5 V Less than 0.4 V		

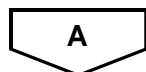
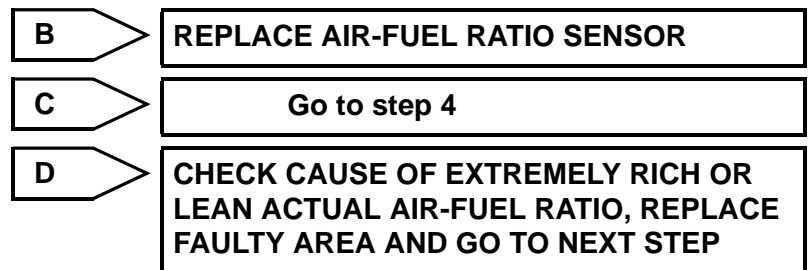
Case	A/F Sensor (Sensor 1) Output Voltage		HO2 Sensor (Sensor 2) Output Voltage		Main Suspected Trouble Areas
3	Injection Volume +25 % -12.5 %		Injection Volume +25 % -12.5 %		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HO2 sensor HO2 sensor heater HO2 sensor circuit
	Output Voltage More than 3.35 V Less than 3.0 V		Output Voltage Almost no reaction	—————NG	
4	Injection volume +25 % -12.5 %		Injection Volume +25 % -12.5 %		Extremely rich or lean actual air-fuel ratio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injector Fuel pressure Gas leakage from exhaust system
	Output Voltage Almost no reaction	—————NG	Output Voltage Almost no reaction	—————NG	

Following the A/F CONTROL procedure enables technicians to check and graph the voltage outputs of both the A/F and HO2 sensors.

To display the graph, select the following menu items on the tester: DIAGNOSIS / ENHANCED OBD II / ACTIVE TEST / A/F CONTROL / USER DATA / AFS B1 S1 and O2S B1 S2; then press the YES button and then the ENTER button followed by the F4 button.

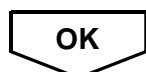
Result

Result	Proceed To
Case 1	A
Case 2	B
Case 3	C
Case 4	D



3	CHECK FOR EXHAUST GAS LEAKAGE
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OK:
No gas leakage.



REPLACE THREE-WAY CATALYTIC CONVERTER (BOTH FRONT AND REAR CATALYSTS (FRONT EXHAUST PIPE))

4	CHECK FOR EXHAUST GAS LEAKAGE
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OK:
No gas leakage.

NG	REPAIR OR REPLACE EXHAUST GAS LEAKAGE POINT
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OK

REPLACE HEATED OXYGEN SENSOR
