

2022 CHEVROLET CORVETTE SERVICE MANUAL

- SEARCH

1. Engine/Propulsion
2. Engine Controls and Fuel - 6.2L (LT2)
3. Description and Operation
- 4.

Heated Oxygen Sensor Description and Operation

The engine control module (ECM) controls a closed loop air/fuel metering system in order to provide the best possible combination of driveability, fuel economy, and emission control. The ECM monitors the heated oxygen sensor (HO2S) signal and adjusts the fuel delivery based on the signal while in closed loop operation. The short term fuel trim values change rapidly in response to the HO2S signal. These changes fine tune the engine fueling. The long term fuel trim values change in response to trends in the short term fuel trim. The long term fuel trim makes coarse adjustments to fueling in order to re-center and restore control to short term fuel trim.

Heated Oxygen Sensor

When the engine is started, the ECM operates in an Open Loop mode, ignoring the HO2S signal voltage while calculating the air-to-fuel ratio. While the engine runs, the HO2S heats up and begins to generate a voltage within a range of 0.1 to 1.0 V. Once sufficient HO2S voltage fluctuation is observed by the ECM, Closed Loop mode is entered. The ECM uses the HO2S voltage to determine the air-to-fuel ratio. An HO2S voltage that increases toward 1.0 V indicates a rich fuel mixture. An HO2S voltage that decreases toward 0 V indicates a lean fuel mixture.

Heated oxygen sensors are used for fuel control and post catalyst monitoring. Each HO2S compares the oxygen content of the surrounding air with the oxygen content in the exhaust stream. The HO2S must reach operating temperature to provide an accurate voltage signal. A heating element inside the HO2S minimizes the time required for the sensor to reach operating temperature. This allows the system to enter Closed Loop earlier and the ECM to calculate the air-to-fuel ratio sooner. Voltage is provided to the heater by an ignition voltage circuit through a fuse. With the engine running, ground is provided to the heater by the HO2S heater low control circuit through a low side driver within the ECM. The ECM uses pulse width modulation (PWM) to control the HO2S heater operation to maintain a specific HO2S operating temperature range.

Wide Band Heated Oxygen Sensor

The wide band heated oxygen sensor (HO2S) measures the amount of oxygen in the exhaust system and provides more information than the switching style HO2S. The wide band sensor consists of an oxygen sensing cell, an oxygen pumping cell, and a heater. The exhaust gas sample passes through a diffusion gap between the sensing cell and the pumping cell. An electronic circuit within the ECM controls the pump current through the oxygen pumping cell in order to maintain a constant voltage in the oxygen sensing cell. The ECM monitors the voltage variation in the sensing cell and attempts to keep the voltage constant by increasing or decreasing the amount of current flow, or oxygen ion flow, from the pumping cell. By measuring the amount of current required to maintain the voltage in the sensing cell, the ECM can determine the concentration of oxygen in the exhaust. The HO2S pumping current is displayed as a lambda value. A lambda value of 1 is equal to a stoichiometric air fuel ratio of 14.7:1. Under normal operating conditions, the lambda value will remain around 1. When the fuel system is lean, the oxygen level will be high and the lambda signal will be high or more than 1. When the fuel system is rich, the oxygen level will be low, and the lambda signal will be low or less than 1. The ECM uses this information to maintain the correct air/fuel ratio. If the ECM detects that the HO2S signal is out of range a DTC will set.

The heating element inside each HO2S heats the sensor to bring it up to operating conditions faster. This allows the system to enter Closed Loop mode earlier and the ECM to calculate the air-to-fuel ratio sooner.