

Injectronics

Remanufactured Automotive Electronics Components

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Document number: T0062

For further technical information regarding testing, repairs or to search for New or Remanufactured Automotive electronic products, please visit www.injectronics.com.au, call our office on (+613) 8792 6999, or email sales@injectronics.com.au

Make: Various

Model: Various

Subject: Intermittent faults

Intermittent faults can be some of the hardest problems to diagnose on a vehicle. A good start is when the customer drops off the vehicle. Take note of all their complaints about the vehicle, because quite often separate faults can have the same cause (such as bad earths). You should also explain at the same time that unless you can reproduce the fault in the workshop, it is not possible, or very difficult to accurately diagnose the fault. Also enquire as to what work has been done on the vehicle in the past, a smash repair is quite often a good place to start looking for faults.

A good start with intermittent faults is to eliminate as many possible causes of the fault, by eliminating all the easy things first. This includes checking that battery terminals, fusible links, fuses and ground points are clean and tight, before you start. The next step is to try and isolate which system is causing the problem. The engine management systems on most vehicles have a built in safety feature, which shuts down the fuel injectors if there is no ignition signal, this eliminates raw fuel passing thru the engine without being ignited. So if you have a vehicle with no fuel pump and injection operation, you may have no coil negative pulse.

Sometimes the fault cannot be reproduced in the workshop or on a test drive. If you suspect an ECM, airflow meter or crank angle sensor is the cause of the complaint on the vehicle, Injectronics can provide a trial unit, which you can test in the vehicle for up to 2 weeks, to see if it rectifies the fault. If it doesn't rectify the fault you can return the unit for a minimal fee. This is a low cost alternative to buying an expensive new unit, which may not fix the fault anyway.

T0062.doc

This publication is distributed with the understanding that the authors, editors and publishers are not responsible for the results of any actions or works of whatsoever kind undertaken on the basis of information contained in this publication, nor for any errors or omissions contained herein. The publishers, authors and editors expressly disclaim all and any liability to any person whomsoever whether a purchaser of this publication or not in respect of anything and of the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done by any such persons in reliance, whether whole or partial upon the whole or any part of the contents of this publication. Injectronics Australia Pty Ltd. © Copyright 2001.