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Topic

Universal O2 Sensors

Issue

In many cases when the required O2 Sensor with the original OE connector is unavailable, a Universal Type O2 Sensor is installed. Signal feedback complaints are being noted with this type of O2 Sensor and lead to higher than expected warranty returns.

The actual issue with the Universal O2 sensors is actually how the sensor leads are installed. If installation is not performed properly, external contamination could interfere with the required reference air entering the leads as well as the possibility of corrosion within the wire strands affecting O2 sensor operation.

Solution

If possible in all cases, use direct-fit O2 Sensors (with Original Equipment connectors) but if the only alternative is a Universal O2 Sensor, connect the leads according to the instructions provided with the sensor. Failing to properly secure and seal the leads together will result with improper O2 sensor operation and/or DTC code(s).

Additional Information

Do not use electrical tape as this type of installation method is NOT recommended and may lead to premature failure(s).

Additionally, do not solder the Universal O2 sensor leads together as in some sensor brands, the reference air travels through (between) the wire strands; soldering prevents the reference air from flowing to the sensor element resulting in improper sensor operation.

