

**Wheels:** Tony writes, “I was reading the Dayton Daily News and thought you gave some good advice to someone who had trouble with their automobile. It seems they are not alone. My 1997 Kia Sportage check engine light gives a code P1309. My mechanic says it says ‘chassis accessory sensor signal high’ and his computer gives him no info to fix the problem. It also says for 1997 only. Can you give me any info on this problem?”

**Halderman:** I checked service information and discovered that the code means “chassis acceleration sensor signal high.” This is a sensor used to detect rough roads and is part of the antilock braking system (ABS). The service information I have does not show the location or testing procedures for this sensor. If the vehicle has been involved in an accident or severe driving, then this sensor could have been damaged.

What would I do? If the vehicle has not been subjected to harsh driving conditions, I would clear the code and see if it appears again. A scan tool can be used to clear the code, but it can often be cleared by disconnecting the battery negative terminal, and then depressing the brake pedal. This last step will drain any electrical charges from capacitors by discharging them through the brake light bulbs. Reconnect the battery and start the engine. In most cases the “check engine” light should be off. You may have to reset the radio stations and clock, so be prepared to do these functions after clearing the code.

