

Wheels: An e-mail from Gary says, “While driving home, my truck threw a P0171 code. This is a lean condition on the left bank oxygen sensor. I looked at causes online and it tells me that I may have a dirty MAF sensor and to use brake cleaner to spray it clean. I also cleared the code and drove about 5 miles and the code did not come back on. Any directions or advice?”

Halderman: Usually, but not always, a left bank lean code is due to a lean condition on the left side (driver’s side) of the engine. I think your truck has a catalytic converter on each bank. The converters can become clogged due to the insulation used around them getting into the center clogging the exhaust. This would then reduce the amount of airflow through the left side, triggering this code. A dirty mass air flow (MAF) sensor could, as you indicated, also be the cause. Use care when cleaning this sensor or ask a professional for help with further diagnosis.

