Head Gasket Selection for 2017- 2024 General Motors L5P 6.6L Duramax Diesel Engines

The AERA Technical Committee offers the following information regarding head gasket selection for 2017-2024 General Motors L5P 6.6L Duramax diesel engines. The L5P engines use three different head gaskets depending on what the piston protrusion measures.

Piston protrusion is measured at TDC (Top Dead Center) to determine which correct head gasket thickness to use. The head gaskets are marked on the edge of the gasket with a hole at the top, middle or bottom of the tab as shown in Figure 1.

Once the piston protrusion has been measured, reference the information below to determine the correct gasket thickness to use depending on the piston protrusion. Failure to check piston protrusion and using the incorrect gasket could result in piston to head contact or piston to valve contact.

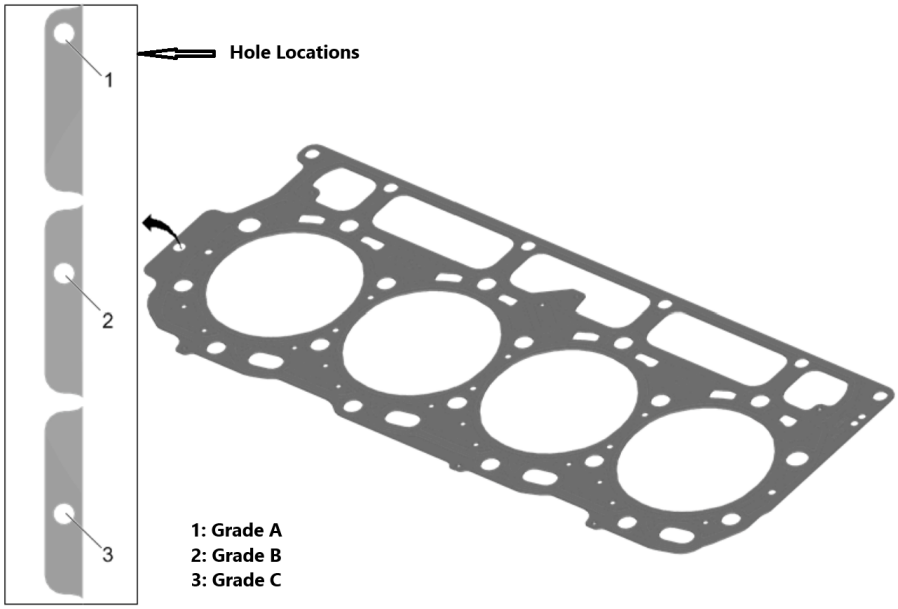


FIGURE 1: Gasket Identification Holes

Piston Protrusion	Grade	Gasket Thickness
.016-.021” (.406-.524 MM)	A	.045-.050” (1.140-1.260 MM)
.021-.023” (.524-.575 MM)	B	.047-.052” (1.190-1.310 MM)
.023-.029” (.575-.734 MM)	C	.049-.054” (1.240-1.360 MM)

NOTE: Aftermarket suppliers offer a .060” thick head gasket as well.

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