



# Service Bulletin

## PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

**Subject:** Grinding Noise Heard When Shifting into Reverse

**Models:** 2012-2013 Chevrolet Sonic  
Equipped with 5-Speed Manual Transmission (RPO M26)  
Built Prior to October 20, 2012

*This PI is being revised to add Customer Information. Please discard PI0735A.*

### Condition/Concern

Some customers may comment on an intermittent grinding noise when shifting into Reverse.

The 5-speed manual transmission has a non-synchronized reverse gear and no mechanism to match the input and output shaft speeds that allow a smooth shift.

This function is left up to the driver, and can be noticed when shifting into Reverse is attempted while the vehicle is rolling or before the input shaft stops rotating.

The grinding can be reduced by coming to a complete stop and pausing for a moment before shifting into reverse gear.

### Recommendation/Instructions

Confirming this is done by inspecting the clutch spin down time as follows:

1. Apply the parking brake and block the vehicle wheels.
2. Shift the manual transmission into neutral.
3. Start the engine, and allow to run at idle speed.
4. Engage the clutch.
5. Disengage the clutch and wait 9 seconds.
6. Shift the transmission into reverse.

If no grinding is heard, no repair should be made. Inform the customer that when shifting to Reverse, make sure to have the clutch depressed for 1 seconds before selecting the reverse gear.

### Customer Information

Please communicate to the customer that this condition is a normal operating characteristic of their vehicle. It will not impact the designed performance or reliability of the vehicle. Please share this information with the customer, including a copy of this message.

GM bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians, NOT a "do-it-yourselfer". They are written to inform these technicians of conditions that may occur on some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper service of a vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the equipment, tools, safety instructions, and know-how to do a job properly and safely. If a condition is described, DO NOT assume that the bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle will have that condition. See your GM dealer for information on whether your vehicle may benefit from this information.



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