



# Service Bulletin

## INFORMATION

**Subject:** Unable To Achieve Preload On Pinion Bearings 9.5/9.76 Inch Rear Axles

**Models:** 2014-2016 Chevrolet Silverado  
2015-2016 Chevrolet Tahoe, Suburban  
2014-2016 GMC Sierra  
2015-2016 GMC Yukon  
2015-2016 Cadillac Escalade  
Equipped with 9.5 inch or 9.76 inch rear axle.

The following diagnosis might be helpful if the vehicle exhibits the symptom(s) described in this PI.

Technicians may be unable to achieve pre-load when setting up the pinion bearing pre-loads during reassembly of the 9.5/9.76 inch rear axles. Reports from the field include breaking of sockets, breaker bars, ratchets and pinion holding tool without achieving preload. Also we have seen pinion gears with stripped threads.



### **Condition/Concern**

This has been identified to be caused when reusing a pinion flange that has imperfections in the mating surface where the nut contacts the flange. In rare occasions it has also been experienced with a new flange as the nut and flange mating surface start to wear into each other with high pressure associated with drawing the bearing and flange onto the gear. When there is extremely high amounts of torque applied to the pinion nut it is possible to deform the nut which starts the thread damage.



## Recommendation/Instructions

To aid in assembly the following information can be used in conjunction with Differential Drive Pinion Gear Bearing Replacement procedure in service information. With the pinion flange started onto the pinion gear install washer part number 11609638 onto the pinion shaft between the flange and nut.

Tighten the pinion nut until you achieve 10 lb in. (1.0 Nm) rotating torque.

Back the nut off and remove the washer.

**Note:** 9.5/9.67 in rear axles DO NOT USE a washer between the pinion flange and nut and the washer CANNOT be left in place.

Tighten the nut back down until you achieve 15 lb in. (1.7 Nm) for used bearings or 20 lb in (2.25 Nm) for new bearings.

The washer 11609638 can be used multiple times but if either surface of the washer becomes damaged discard and obtain another one.

**Note:** At the time this pi was written service information Differential Drive Pinion Gear Bearing Replacement procedures for 8.6,9.5 and 9.76 rear axles were all listed together and the 8.6 inch axle does use a washer. The note in SI saying not to reuse the pinion nut refers to a staked nut or one that had been previously staked. It is ok in this instance to loosen the nut and remove the washer and then reinstall it PRIOR to staking it.

Please follow this diagnostic or repair process thoroughly and complete each step. If the condition exhibited is resolved without completing every step, the remaining steps do not need to be performed.

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