



Technical Bulletin

TB5014

July 22, 2003

Position of Wear Sensors on General Motors Front Brake Pads

2002-1997	Chevrolet Malibu
1999-1997	Oldsmobile Cutlass
2002-1997	Oldsmobile Alero
2002-1997	Pontiac Grand Am

There is concern from General Motors about the positioning of the disc brake pads in the front end of some applications.

General Motors offers a technical bulletin (01-05-23-005) to cover this issue.

See the attached document.

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File In Section: 05 - Brakes

Bulletin No.: 01-05-23-005

Date: April, 2001

Service Bulletin



INFORMATION

Subject: Proper Installation of Front Brake Pads with Wear Indicator (Possibility of Reversing Front Brake Pads)

**Models: 1997–2001 Chevrolet Malibu
1997–1999 Oldsmobile Cutlass
1999–2001 Oldsmobile Alero
1999–2001 Pontiac Grand Am**

This bulletin cancels and replaces Corporate Bulletin Number 73–50–34. Please discard Corporate Bulletin Number 73–50–34 (Section 5 — Brakes).

It may be possible to interchange the outboard and inboard front brake pads on the above vehicles without obvious concerns at the time of installation. Improper installation of the brake pads may result in reduced lining life. In addition, possible interference between the compact spare wheel and the caliper may occur. This interference may be sufficient to prevent the wheel from turning when the compact spare is installed soon after pad replacement.

Service Information 1997–2001

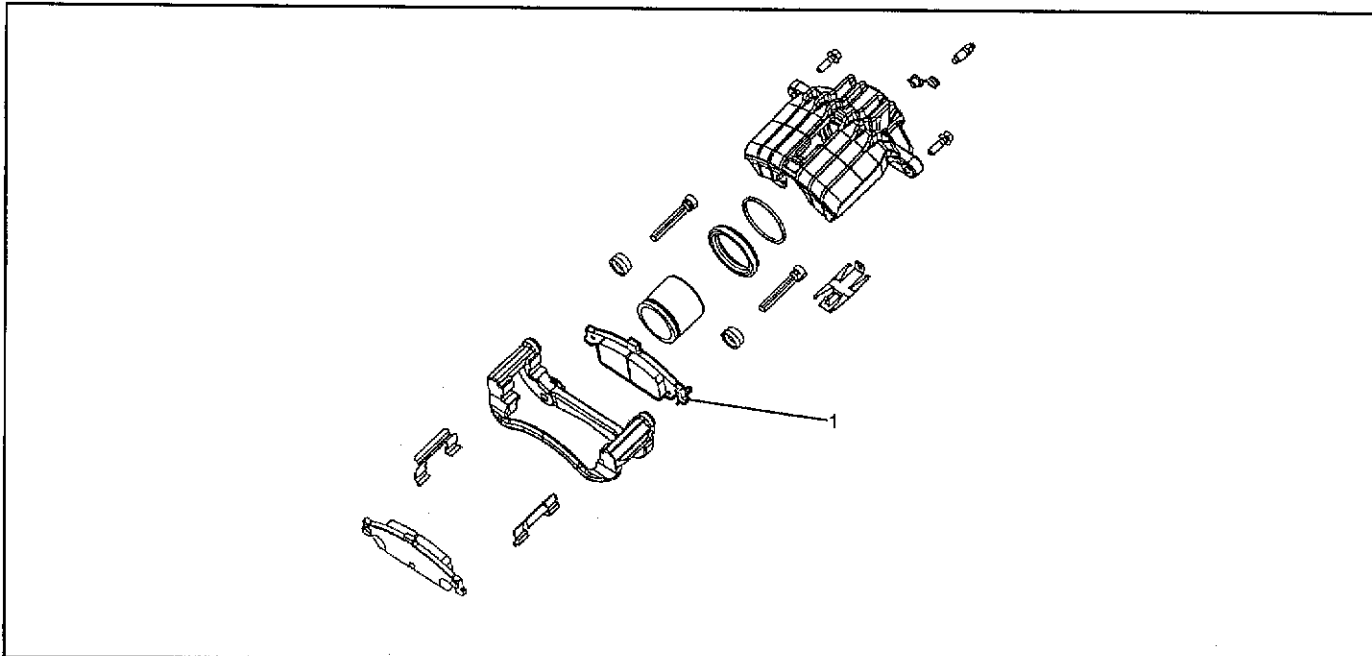
The following list details concerns with the Service Information contained within the L/N car Service Manuals. These items will be updated in the Electronic Service Information.

- The 1997 Chevrolet Malibu and Oldsmobile Cutlass Service Manuals incorrectly state that the brake pad with the wear indicator should be located on the outboard front brake pad. The accompanying illustrations are also incorrect.

- The 1998 Chevrolet Malibu/Oldsmobile Cutlass and the 1999 Service Manual for all four models contain text which describes correctly the front brake pad replacement procedure and location of the front brake pads. The accompanying illustrations, however, show the incorrect pad location.
- The 2000 and 2001 Chevrolet Malibu and Grand Am/Alero Service Manuals contain text which correctly describes the front brake pad replacement procedure. The accompanying illustrations are generic and do not indicate the presence of a wear indicator used as part of the pad assembly.

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Recommendations



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Important: Service kits include specific right hand and left hand inboard pads. When installing front brake pads, the pads with the wear indicators must be installed in the inboard position (against the piston) in the brake caliper. Figure 1, callout (1) shows the proper positioning of the wear indicator. When the proper inboard pad is installed, the wear indicator will point upward with the caliper installed on the car. If the pad with the wear indicator is installed in the outboard position, front brake lining life may be reduced. In addition, interference between the compact spare wheel and the caliper can occur. This interference may be sufficient to prevent the wheel from turning when the compact spare is installed.

- Include a copy of this service bulletin in each affected Service Manual.
- Provide a copy of this service bulletin to all brake technicians.
- Provide this information to the dealer personnel responsible for tire and wheel rotations and repairs.
- Make checking for the proper location of the brake pads a part of your free brake and safety inspections on these vehicles. It takes no additional time and will improve customer satisfaction. Simply identify that the wear indicators are on the inboard pads and are pointed upward.

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 the information.



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