Piston to Rod Assembly on 2001-2016 GM 6.6L Duramax Diesel Engines

The AERA Technical Committee offers the following information regarding piston to rod assembly information on 2001-2016 GM 6.6L Duramax diesel engines. This information should be referenced anytime piston removal is being considered.

The connecting rods for this engine are not physically marked for an assembly direction. Marking them with a pen type marker is suggested during disassembly is suggested for easier re-assembly.

Information provided by General Motors for reassembly only references the big end chamfer and the side with increased chamber should face the crankshaft rod fillet radius. Doing so will face four of those increased chamfers to front of the block and four increased chamfers to the rear of the block.

NOTE: It is also recommended by General Motors to replace the connecting rod bolts during engine assembly anytime they’ve been removed as they are a one-time use bolt.