Cylinder Head Caution for 2007-2011 GM 2.8, 3.0 & 3.6L High Feature Engines

The AERA Technical Committee offers the following information regarding a cylinder head caution for 2007-2011 GM 2.8, 3.0 & 3.6L high feature engines. The caution expressed concerns only engines that anticipate cylinder head replacement. Ordering the proper head may save a lot of time and confusion.

A second design cylinder head was created to ease the assembly process of the cylinder head. This head has eliminated the thrust washers used to limit camshaft end-play. The new head called “Saddle Cap” shown in Figure 2 below should not be used with thrust washers. It should also be noted the second design head will not work properly with 2004-2006 and some early first design 2007 model year engines.

Figure 1. First Design Head with Thrust Washers (1)
GM also suggests using only the new second design heads for earlier heads suspect to damage caused by the camshaft thrust washers.