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Let R be a commutative Noetherian local complete intersection ring of codimension c , and let M and N be nonzero finitely generated R -modules such that $\mathrm{Tor}_{\gg 0}^R(M, N)$ has finite length. Assume $c \geq 2$ and that $\eta_c^R(M, N) = 0$ (Here $\eta(-, -)$ is a generalized version of Hochster's $\theta(-, -)$ pairing, initially defined and studied by Hailong Dao.) We give various criteria, in terms of the depth properties of M , N , and $M \otimes_R N$, that force the vanishing of $\mathrm{Tor}_{> 0}^R(M, N)$. Applying our result to a class of complete intersections over which $\eta(-, -) = 0$, we obtain a new connection between the torsion in the tensor product of modules and the vanishing of Tor. (Received September 24, 2012)