



December 8, 2021

AOMA Members,

Retailers Should Check Engine Oils for Compliance with New Labeling Rule

Beginning January 1, 2022, engine oils sold in most areas of the United States must comply with new labeling requirements. All retailers of automotive engine oils should inspect the products on their shelves and remove any non-compliant containers.

The new rules were adopted in July as amendments to the National Conference on Weights and Measures' Handbook 130. The two key changes are as follows:

1. The SAE J300 cautionary statement for obsolete American Petroleum Institute (API) service categories must appear on the front or forward-facing container label.
2. It is illegal to misrepresent the SAE viscosity or specification for a motor oil, including the API service category, European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) specification or original equipment manufacturer (OEM) specification.

Obsolete API service categories for light-duty gasoline engine oils include anything prior to API SJ. For example, an obsolete API SH oil must include a statement on the front-facing label that the oil is "Not suitable for use in most gasoline-powered automotive engines built after 1996. May not provide adequate protection against build-up of engine sludge, oxidation, or wear."

A list of current and obsolete API service categories can be found [here](#).

There is no sell-through period, so all non-compliant products must be pulled from shelves by January 1. The obsolete oil requirements will be published in the 2022 edition of Handbook 130.

The Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association (ILMA) proposed and supports the new rules. "This change will go a long way toward improving the products that are on the market,

particularly for consumers who may have older vehicles that the obsolete oils could harm,” said Holly Alfano, CEO of ILMA.

Sincerely,

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