Facilitator Report to ASTM Section D02.B0.10 Standards Acceleration

Facilitator: Terry Bates
Report period: June 2009 to Dec 2009

1. ROBO Test Method

As reported in June 2009, this method has now been successfully balloted by D02 and will be published as **D7528**, *Standard Test Method for Bench Oxidation of Engine Oils by ROBO Apparatus.* No facilitating activity is currently required although, when appropriate, I participate in SP teleconferences to ensure awareness of any issues.

2. Gear Oil Storage Stability and Compatibility Test

A Subcommittee B ballot was successfully completed in Oct. 2009. The method was revised slightly to accommodate a number of comments to approval/abstention votes. Nicole ruled that the changes were editorial and a D02 ballot on the revised method was initiated in Oct. 2009. This ballot resulted in:

a) one negative from Kevin Harrington, ExxonMobil. The negative stated: *This test method is not sufficient to determine the compatibility of industrial gear oils. Often IGOs are used with forced circulation systems and subjected to fine filtration. Visible sediment is not an adequate indication of compatibility for these fluids.*

The negative has been withdrawn on condition that the title and scope restrict the method to automotive gear oils. The SP have agreed to the following changes (shown in red) to the title and scope which Nicole has ruled are editorial in nature:

> Title: *Determination of Storage Stability and Compatibility in Automotive Gear Oils*
>
> Scope section 1.1: *This method can be used for determining either or both the storage stability characteristics and the compatibility of automotive gear lubricants when blended with reference lubricants.*

b) eleven comments to an abstention from Kishore Nadkarni, Millennium Analytics Inc. An SP approved response has been made. Some, but not all, of his comments have resulted in changes to the text. A revised draft has been sent to Nicole who has ruled that the proposed changes are all editorial.

c) two comments to an abstention from Joaquin A Lubkowitz, Separation Systems Inc. One comment concerned a misunderstanding of a footnote that was split between 2 pages of the draft. The 2nd comment queried units in Eq. X2.1. This was due to an error on the part of the commenter regarding the units for specific gravity. No revisions were required and the commenter has accepted this.

The method will be published as **D7603** *Determination of Storage Stability and Compatibility in Automotive Gear Oils.*

Gerry Gropp has agreed ensure that D7603 will be used in the gear oils specifications SAE J2360 ASTM and D5760.

A case could be made for the discontinuance of the FED methods on the grounds that the ASTM method is actively monitored by a Surveillance Panel and may be revised from time to time in the light of experience or changing circumstances. There appears to be no group active on the FED methods. D7603 should, therefore, be the method to take forward from now on.

3. Ed85 Emulsion Retention Test

This method has potential for use in ILSAC GF-5 and is based on a Chrysler in-house test for measuring the ability of an oil to keep contamination from water and ethanol-based fuels in emulsion.

Following failing Sub B and D02 ballots earlier this year, a task force of stakeholders was set up to ensure that revisions were made which would likely ensure a successful ballot. A new draft was drawn up by myself, Mark Devlin and Ted Selby and approved by the TF. Mark Devlin also organised a successful round robin which resulted in further refinements. ILSAC Oil were kept informed of progress. A new Sub B/D02 was initiated in Oct. 2009. The ballot resulted in:

a) No negatives

b) **Comments to 9 affirmative votes and one abstention vote**.

All commenters were contacted with a proposal on how to handle their comments. Positive responses were obtained and a revised method has been written incorporating these changes. Nicole has ruled that these changes are all editorial in nature.