



Test Monitoring Center

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MEMORANDUM: 04-047
DATE: May 21, 2004
TO: ASTM Test Monitoring Board
FROM: John L. Zalar
SUBJECT: ASTM TMC Semiannual Report

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL

For many years, Ernst & Young has performed the independent financial audits of the Test Monitoring Center. This was (is) the same auditing firm used by ASTM International. In December 2003, Ernst & Young informed the TMC that, being one of their smaller accounts, we were being dropped as a client. ASTM International recommended that the TMC begin using Carnegie Mellon University's auditor, Deloitte & Touche. Consequently, the TMC audit for the period February 1, 2003 through January 31, 2004 was completed in April by Deloitte & Touche. The outcome of the audit was favorable. A copy of the audit report has been electronically distributed to the Test Monitoring Board mailing list.

There have been no personnel changes during the past six months. The TMC staff count remains at 17 full-time employees. The current organizational chart is shown as Attachment A.

INFORMATION LETTERS

Information letter activity has been moderately high. The following 16 information letters have been issued by the TMC since my last report.

| <u>Information Letter</u> | <u>Date Issued</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Sequence IIIF No. 03-3 | 11/7/03 |
| Sequence IIIF No. 04-1 | 4/13/04 |
| Sequence IIIG No. 03-4 | 11/13/03 |
| Sequence IIIG No. 04-1 | 4/2/04 |
| Sequence VIG No. 04-1 | 3/10/04 |
| Sequence VIB No. 04-1 | 1/30/04 |
| Sequence VIII No. 03-1 | 11/17/03 |
| 1K/1N No. 04-1 | 2/23/04 |
| 1M-PC No. 03-1 | 11/21/03 |
| 1P No. 03-1 | 11/21/03 |
| T-8 No. 03-1 | 10/24/03 |
| T-9 No. 03-1 | 10/24/03 |
| T-10 No. 03-3 | 10/28/03 |
| L-42 No. 03-4 | 11/14/03 |

Information LetterDate Issued

L-60-1 No. 04-1

3/1/04

HTCBT No. 03-2

12/4/03

All of these letters are on the Spring Subcommittee B information letter ballot. The results of the ballot will be reported at the TMB meeting on June 22, 2004.

SEQUENCE VIB CALIBRATION OIL RE-BLEND

At the request of the Sequence VIB Surveillance Panel, the TMC has begun the process of coordinating another re-blend of Sequence VIB calibration oils. There are two products, the baseline calibration oil (BC) and the high detergent flush oil (BCFHD). This blend, which will be the sixth re-blend of these oils, is intended to satisfy industry needs through April 2007. The target is to have approved and usable product by the end of the first quarter of 2005. The major steps in the re-blend process are summarized below.

1. A survey of participating laboratories is used to calculate blend volumes of BC and BCFHD. (This step was completed on April 30, 2004 resulting in blend volumes of 12,100 gallons of BC-6 and 4800 gallons of BCFHD-6.)
2. A request for quotation is submitted to the blender to determine the total blender costs. (As of the date of this report, the request for quotation has been submitted and the blender is working on the quotation.)
3. The cost per gallon of oil is established. The cost per gallon includes blender costs, analytical verification costs (two independent laboratories are used), and engine test verification costs (2 to 4 engine test laboratories are used), adjusted for any credit/debit from the previous blend.
4. Invoices are sent to all purchasers and monies are collected and deposited in a special account at Carnegie Mellon University. The TMC is not charged overhead on purchases made from this account.
5. TMC issues a purchase order for blending the two products. All monies must be collected prior to issuing this purchase order.
6. Once blended, both oils are analytically verified prior to containerization and shipment to the labs. The TMC receives a small inventory of each product to accommodate new labs and minor lab shortages.
7. After the labs receive the oils, the engine test performance of BC is evaluated in a verification testing program designed by the Sequence VIB Surveillance Panel. The new blend is compared to a baseline blend of BC via a series of back-to-back engine tests. Data collection and analysis is performed by the TMC.
8. The Sequence VIB Surveillance Panel reviews the results of the engine test verification program and determines if the blend is approved for use. A correction factor could be necessary in the case where the new BC blend performs differently than the baseline blend.

TMC MONITORING OF CI-4 ELASTOMER TEST

On December 9, 2003 the Heavy Duty Engine Oil Classification Panel approved a request for TMC monitoring of the CI-4 Elastomer Compatibility Test. This action was reported to Subcommittee B on December 10, 2003. The TMC already had a limited involvement with the test, including distribution of the reference oil and maintenance of a data set with statistics on the TMC web site. As a result of this limited involvement, it was agreed that the facilitator for the test method could be funded by the TMC. Based on the HDEOCP request, the TMC began working with the surveillance panel to expand services and implement a formal monitoring process. As this work progressed, concerns were raised about the cost effectiveness of formal TMC monitoring of this test. On May 18, 2004, the HDEOCP reconsidered the need for and value of TMC monitoring of the elastomer test. A motion to reverse the original request for TMC monitoring was defeated. The TMC will continue working with the surveillance panel to complete the implementation of a monitoring system.

NEW REFERENCE OILS

The following reference oils were received and processed by the TMC during the period from November 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004.

| <u>Test Type</u> | <u>Oil Code</u> | <u>Quantity (gallons)</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| ISM | ISMA | 575 |
| L-37 | LT1-1 | 110 |
| L-37 | LT2-1 | 110 |
| HTCBT | NO3 | 1 |
| HTCBT | NO4 | 1 |
| HTCBT | NO5 | 1 |

During this same time period, the TMC made 246 shipments of reference oils containing a total of 2,070 individual oil samples.

REFERENCE OIL DISCARDS

The TMC recently discarded most of the remaining supply of oil 5000, a standard crankcase oil used in the L-10 Injector Deposit Test. The discarded volume of 6105 gallons enabled us to eliminate one off-site warehouse space and its corresponding annual lease cost of nearly \$13,000.

The remaining supplies of Sequence VIA reference oils have been declared obsolete and will be scheduled for discard. The list of oils includes 529-1, 531, 531-1, 534, 535-2, 536, and 536-1. The total oil volume is slightly in excess of 9000 gallons. This is a major discard but will free up space for new oils that are expected to be procured in support of PC-10.

CALIBRATION TEST REPORTING

During the period from November 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004, 1270 calibration tests were reported to the TMC. Also, during this same period, 96% of all tests reported to the TMC were transmitted electronically.

JLZ/jlz

Attachment

c: ftp://ftp.astmtmc.cmu.edu/docs/test_monitoring_board/TMC-6-2004.pdf

Distribution: Email

Attachment A

