

HOW TO CHECK AN OIL IS RIGHT FOR A VEHICLE

- Refer to the vehicle's operating manual to check the engine's requirements.
- Access the product's technical claims available on the Technical Data Sheet available from the lubricant marketer, displayed on packaging or in accompanying marketing material.
- Check with your reseller that the product's technical claims match the vehicle's requirements.

VLS supports mechanics and workshops by ensuring that lubricant product claims are valid and reliable. By verifying the specification of lubricant products, end users can be assured that a lubricant is accurately described and independently assessed.

ABOUT VLS

Verification of Lubricant Specifications is an independent membership organisation backed by the industry trade body the United Kingdom Lubricants Association, providing a credible and trusted means to verify lubricant specifications. Its aim is to bring transparency to the lubricant market place and protect and educate the end user.

VLS welcomes new members from across the lubricants industry including manufacturers, blenders, marketers, base oil or additive suppliers. VLS also welcomes affiliate members that are agents, distributors, service providers, or commercial or industrial end users (e.g. garage workshop), or related Industry trade associations.

A list of all current members including oil manufacturers can be found on our website.

www.ukla-vls.org.uk



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Protecting You and Your Workshop



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DOES USING THE RIGHT ENGINE OIL REALLY MATTER?

Put the wrong fuel in a car and the impact is immediate. Put the wrong oil in a car and the impact could be just as severe.

Poor quality or the wrong oil can cause accelerated wear in gears and bearings leading to increased maintenance costs and if left unchecked, eventual engine failure.

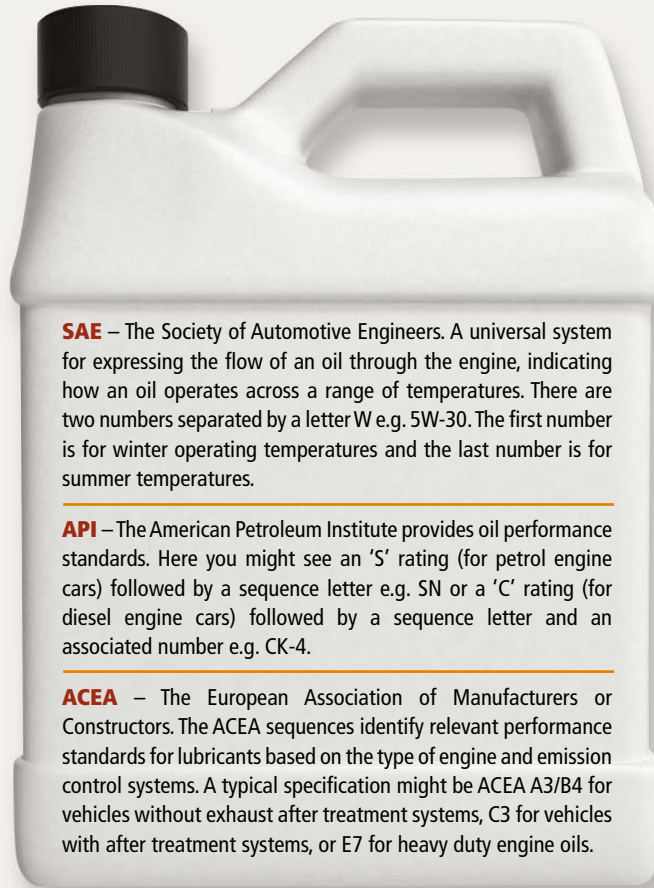
Car manufacturers invest millions of pounds each year in developing sophisticated, technologically advanced products and expect all automotive parts used to be of suitable quality.

With advances in technology, today's choice of oil can run into the hundreds if not thousands of products.

If you are uncertain about your APIs or do not know your SAEs from your ACEAs, then how can you be sure that the oil you choose is the right one for the vehicle in your workshop?

WHAT DO THE LETTERS ON AN OIL PACK ACTUALLY MEAN?

Engine oil, or lubricants, carry different industry marks representing the standards they meet to help you understand if the oil is right for your needs.



In addition, some vehicle manufacturers have their own specifications and where you see these in the handbook you should select an oil with the relevant claims. Examples might be Mercedes-Benz MB 229.51 or General Motors dexos 2™.

Whilst a manufacturer may recommend a particular brand of engine oil, you may use another one as long as it meets the same technical requirements. If you are unsure, always refer to the vehicle manual and ask for assistance from your retailer to confirm that the oil meets the specification described.



WHO IS VLS?

- Verification of Lubricant Specifications (VLS) is an industry-backed independent organisation providing a credible and trusted means to verify lubricant specifications.
- Formed in 2013 by the United Kingdom Lubricants Association (UKLA), VLS offers an independent means of ensuring that products being sold meet a valid technical specification and performance claims.
- VLS is a membership organisation, funded by its members and by the charge levied in connection with each case raised.

WHAT VLS DOES:

- Promotes the importance of lubricant quality and performance specifications within the UK lubricant market.
- Investigates complaints about oil specifications by independently checking compliance to industry standards and performance claims within the UK marketplace.
- Engages with oil companies, relevant authorities and industry bodies to pursue incorrect or false product quality and standards, with focus being placed on education and/or undertaking of remedial action to improve compliance.
- Raises awareness through publicly reporting findings from its investigations on the quality of lubricants sold in the market.