

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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DID YOU KNOW OILS REALLY AIN'T OILS?



This month, we will take you through ins and outs of how to choose quality product. How do you know it is the right one to use? Who can you trust to tell you this information?

Our Workshop Expert, Tony Clark introduces us to the American Petroleum Institute and the role they play in making sure the lubricants you choose are tested and certified to guarantee quality products in our industry.

WHAT DOES API CERTIFIED MEAN?



Does it matter? The American Petroleum Institute (API) is the leader in developing equipment and operating standards for the oil and natural gas industry globally. Lubricants that have been certified by the API are seen to be industry best-practice and guaranteed to meet manufacturer's requirements.

Oils that are Licensed and Certified have to pass the physical tests of the API. These tests guarantee that the lubricant meets the performance requirements set by a group of US and International vehicle and engine manufacturers and the lubricant industry itself.

The API also has an Enforcement Policy to ensure continued quality, even after certification. They will purchase certified oils in market and test to determine their physical, chemical and performance properties. If the certified oil does not match the physical and chemical data on file, appropriate corrective action is taken and, if necessary, the licence is terminated.

Many Automobile Manufactures recommend only Starburst Oils for both their current and older vehicles. Failure to use the recommended oil can result in vehicle damage not covered by the warranty. So look for the recommended oils identified by the Starburst Certification Mark for your client's vehicle.

The API only recommends using quality lubricants that are licensed and certified. Did you know that **Total and Elf Lubricants** are licensed and certified by the API.

UNLICENSED OILS – So, where’s the risk?

In Australia, there are numerous oils from various companies that are not licensed but claim their specifications on the advice of their additive supplier. These oils have not been submitted to the API for testing and certification and so are unable to carry the quality marks of the API. You are essentially taking that companies word for it that they meet the specifications claimed by them.

Just think - every 208 litre drum you use in your workshop is equivalent to approximately 50 client services. That’s a lot of potential for something to go wrong and an unnecessary risk.

Ask yourself do you trust them and are you prepared to take that risk?

RISKS - HERE THEY ARE, IN BLACK AND WHITE

1. Using low quality oils can result in costly engine repairs and increased fuel consumption.
2. Oils that do not meet required specifications could ultimately void your engine warranty.
3. Low quality oils that don’t meet the latest specs decrease fuel economy.
4. If major damage occurs from the use of motor oil that does not meet the manufactures specifications and your warranty is voided, the rebuild could cost you thousands of dollars.

HOW TO CHECK IF YOUR LUBRICANT IS LICENSED AND CERTIFIED BY THE API



Check to see if it carries the quality marks of the API Donut or Starburst Certification, as pictured left – [click here to check them all out!](#)

Not all licensed oils carry the quality marks of the API, as a premium is charged to use them. You can check a product’s certification yourself by going to the American Petroleum Institute’s Engine Oil License Directory on their website – [click here](#) to go straight to the directory