

# **Emulsion Issue Update**

## Heavy-Duty Engine Oil Classification Panel

ASTM Meeting, Dec 2009 Anaheim, California

> Hind Abi-Akar Caterpillar Inc.

Dec 8, 2009



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# Field Test – Purpose



- Evaluate "pass oil" emulsion performance in real-life application
- Evaluate impact of water separation from the emulsion on the engine oil
- Evaluate the "pass Oil" engine oil characteristics and performance

"Pass Oil": passing reference oil for the O-WEST bench test

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# **Field Test - Setup**



- 4 On-Highway trucks:
  - Two trucks were run with API CJ-4 engine oil
  - Two trucks were run with O-WEST "Pass" oil
- Photo-documentation of parts before and after the test
- Oil samples were sent to Caterpillar every 100hrs for analysis
- Engine oil was changed between 15,000-25,000 miles
- Test was run from April-June, 2009

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## **API CJ-4 Test Truck**



#### Unit A192 – API CJ-4 Oil



**Pre-Test** 

Pre-test photos showed significant emulsion formation

- Emulsion found on valve cover

#### Unit A192 – API CJ-4 Oil



Post-Test (19,006 miles)

Post-test photos showed emulsion still present - Emulsion remaining on valve cover

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## "Pass" Oil Test Truck

#### Unit A169 – API CJ-4 Oil



**Pre-Test** 

Pre-test photos showed significant emulsion formation

- Emulsion found on valve cover

#### Unit A169 – O-WEST "Pass" Oil



Post-Test (17,414 miles)

Post-test photos showed no emulsion present - No emulsion found on valve

cover

Dec 8, 2009 Second engine running "Pass" oil grounded for test period 5

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## Results

Unit	Oil Type	Water
A169	"Pass" Oil	0.17%
A192	API CJ-4	0.13%
A179	API CJ-4	0.11%

- No additional "water build-up" in the sump was seen with the use of "Pass" engine oil
- No impact on other oil parameters: viscosity, TBN, oxidation, wear metals, etc

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# Results



- Improvement was demonstrated in one engine that used a "Pass" oil – limited results
- An additional test site is being identified to generate more data
  - Actively searching for site with appropriate number of trucks/machines
  - Ambient temperature is becoming conducive to generate emulsion giving more opportunities for testing

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# **Moving Forward**



- Focus is on setting an emulsion stability criteria
  - Continue oil testing on Cat O–WEST bench
  - Repeatability, reproducibility work
  - Make test bench available at 3<sup>rd</sup> party lab
  - Developing the O-WEST into an ASTM Test

