

Oil Seal Compatibility Test (OSCT) Surveillance Panel Meeting Minutes

TACOM (Detroit Army Arsenal) Warren, MI

11/11/09

Attendees:

Don Lind (TMC)	Sam Higuichi (Afton)	Allen Comfort (Army)
Galen Greene (Lz)	Jerry Gropp (Lz)	Stephen Eliot (XOM)
Brian Koehler (SWRI)	Dale Smith (Intertek)	Bruce McGlone (Arvin Meritor)
John D’Harte (Am Axle)	Bill Kearney (Afton)	Mike Haire (Chevron)
Bridget Brosnan (Army)	Cory Koglin (Afton)	Don Bell (Afton)
B. Grinfield (SWRI, phone)	M. Kasimirsky (TMC, phone)	C. Knight (TEI, phone)
T. Marougy (Eaton, phone)		

A motion made by J. Gropp and 2nd by B. McGlone to approve the meeting minutes from the past two OSCT Surveillance Panel minutes posted on the TMC website was unanimously approved (8 approved):

- 8-14-09
- 10-16-09

There are multiple baths available at both Lz and SWRI with no known related problems or test severity issues. There is a sufficient quantity of elastomers available in the industry. New lots of Polyacrylate and Nitrile will arrive at Test Engineering Institute (TEI) for sending out for qualification in early December 2009.

Lz upgraded to the Instron calibration method referred to as the “Bluehill” version, which resulted in upgrades to Instron software and electronics since Instron warned that previous versions would be obsolete and not supported. It took about 1.5 months for complete installation and ~\$33,000/upgrade. SWRI is still using the “old” calibration method, but both versions yield the same results. TMC issued OSCT information letter 09-1 on 9/4/2009 to include Bluehill method in D5662 Annex as allowed calibration method to current manual calibration procedure. SWRI has two Instrons, so they can convert one at a time to “Bluehill” to avoid test interruption when they so desire.

The current method for qualifying new elastomer batches requires that both test labs (Lz and SWRI) conduct a full set of testing with 12 dumbbells and 12 rectangles in two reference oils, which uses 24 slabs total. Since this depletes elastomer batches that can no longer be used for candidate testing, we considered changes to make the qualification process more efficient.

Motion by J. Gropp and 2nd by B. Grinfield: Effective immediately the elastomer batch qualification procedure is being revised to only require 6 dumbbells and 6 rectangles on each reference oil for evaluating new elastomer batches. This motion passed with 8 approvals and 1 abstention. This revision will reduce the use of elastomer batches and reference oils.

Valvoline wants to purchase ~12 elastomer slabs each of referenced Polyacrylate, Fluoroelastomer, and Nitrile from TEI if they pay the OSCT annual reference fee. The Surveillance Panel initially suggested that TEI provide them with expired Elastomers that had already been qualified, but TEI does not have a sufficient quantity of expired batches. Valvoline was also given the option to purchase Elastomers directly from the supplier, Fruedenberg, but this did not meet their needs since the seals are not qualified for D5662 testing. The Surveillance Panel's position on this is to not release approved elastomer batches or reference oils to those that are not full participants in the OSCT program since the test labs will unfairly bear all costs. Elastomers and reference oils for OSCT are reserved only for participating qualified labs, which is currently SWRI and Lz. Don Bell will issue a response to Valvoline expressing the Surveillance Panel's position upon review by the Panel. The letter will also indicate the procedure to follow to become a participating OSCT qualified lab by contacting Frank Farber of TMC.

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm on 11/11/09.