



Base Stock Logistics  
as we Move to a Low Viscosity Engine Oil World

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4-7 March, 2019  
Grand Hyatt Singapore



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# Overview

How Specifications Drive Base Oil Groups  
The macro drivers of change  
0W engine oils emerge  
Blender/Installer challenge - logistics.



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# How Specifications Drive Base Oil Groups

**No finished oil specification  
ever mentions Base Oil Group  
but the performance spec sets the minimum.**



## Four base stock properties key to specifications

High  
Temperature  
High Shear  
Viscosity  
(HTHS)

Kinematic  
Viscosity  
(KV)

Cold Crank  
Simulator  
Performance  
(CCS)

Volatility  
(Noack)



# SAE J300 PCMO Viscosity Grades

High Temp High Shear viscosity

Less Drag ↓ HTHS ↑ Wear Protection

SAE Grades tied to specific HTHS → Fuel Economy

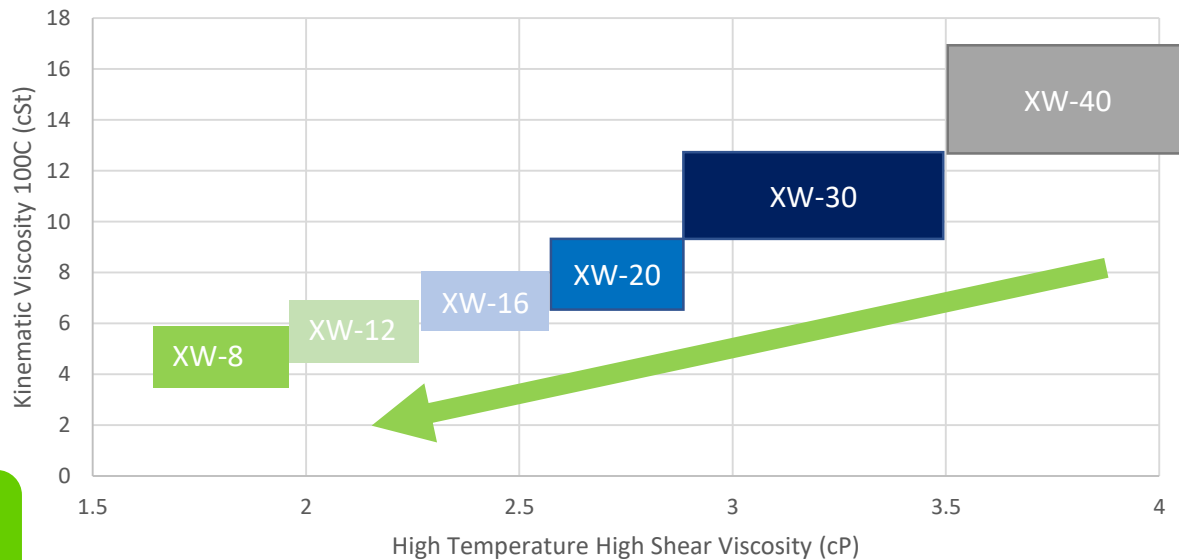


# SAE J300 PCMO Viscosity Grades

The move to lower HTHS & better fuel economy has been very aggressive

5W-30 is dominant globally but lower grades are growing

SAE J300 Viscosity Grades





## SAE J300 Winter Viscosity Grades

- Multi-grade oils flow more freely at low temperature setting the SAE Winter Grade
- Cold crank simulator (1964) mimics the ability of a starter system to “crank” a cold engine sump
- CCS test temperature changes with SAE Winter Grade:
  - 35°C for 0W, -30°C for 5W, -25°C for 10W



Pour Point Depressants ensure the oil flows after start-up



# OEMs Dictate Maximum Volatility

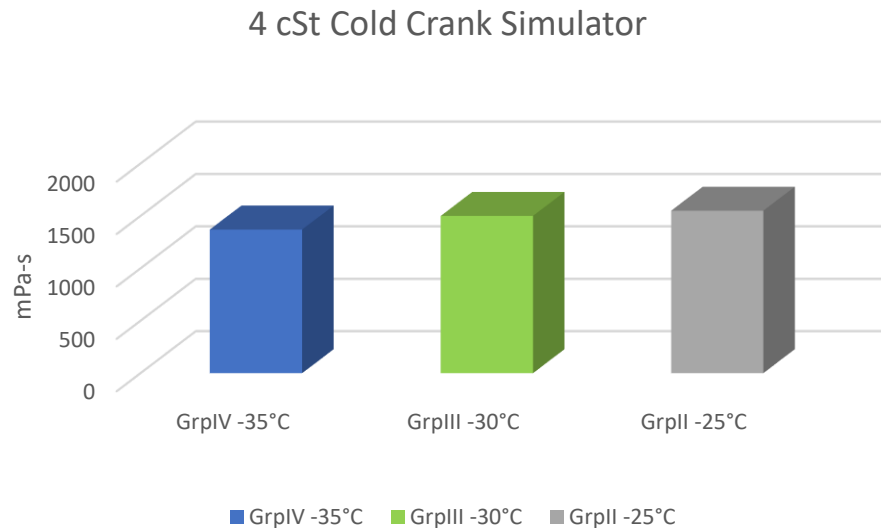
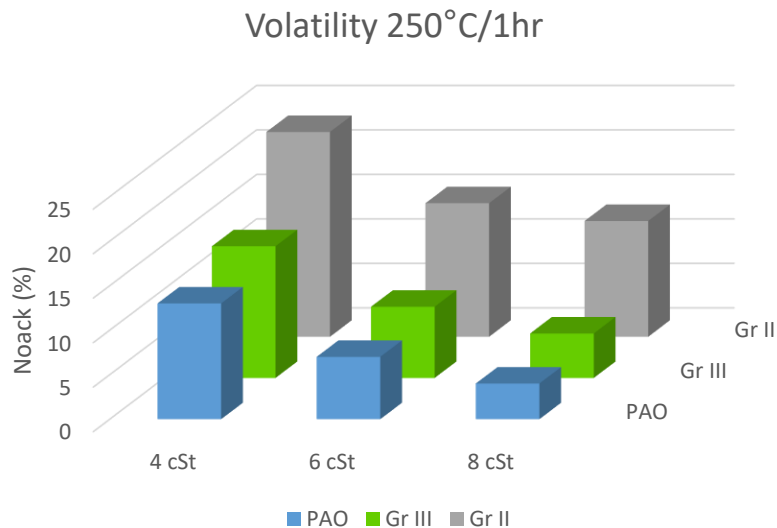
In hot engines  
oil can literally  
boil away

Volatility is  
important for  
long oil drains

The Noack  
Volatility Test is  
run at 250°C  
for 1 hour

OEMs have widely differing needs for volatility

# Balancing CCS & Volatility → Base Oil Selection



Meeting low volatility requirements & extremely low temperature CCS targets drives high API Groups



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## The macro drivers of change

**Regulation forces reduced engineering margins to increase fuel efficiency.**  
**Consumers refuse to do maintenance.**



# Customer behavior, liabilities & costs → OEM spec

Consumer poor service habits demand long drain

- Low volatility & excellent thermal & oxidative stability

Warranty costs are critical

- Durability recommends high HTHS viscosity

Regulatory fines for fuel inefficiency are devastating

- Reduce HTHS viscosity

**Low volatility, low HTHS oils with reengineered engines enable minimum warranty, penalties and cost**



## Long Drain

10W-30 oils with 25% Noack evaporation and 5000 km drain intervals are no longer acceptable

OEMs impose strict Noack limits in their specifications

- ILSAC/API adopt 15%
- Current OEM specs 13% or lower
  - Some two year drains





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# Long Drain & Fuel Economy → 5W-30/20

- 2000-2010 sees 5W oils grow from 20% to 70% in North American PCMO
- ~2000 Japanese OEMs & Ford move to 5W-20
- Europe largely moves to 5W-30



Group III with some Group I/II becomes the cost effective formulating choice



# 5W-20/30 Oils Hit the Sweet Spot

5W-20/30 oils provide long drain, low drag and all weather flexibility at moderate cost

- Modern starting systems have no problem turning over the engine at low temperature (5W CCS is measured at -30°C)
- Vehicle demonstrations show 5W-30 oils performing from Arizona to the Arctic Circle





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# 0W engine oils emerge

**Engine sump temperature differences**

**Supply push**



## Seeking Improvement/Leveraging Differences

- EU/NA engines typically operate  $\sim 100^{\circ}\text{C}$  sump temperature
- Many Japanese engines run cooler  $\sim 80^{\circ}\text{C}$
- At  $80^{\circ}\text{C}$  some motored tests show a small fuel economy improvements for 0W-20 compared to 5W-20 oils
- 0W-20 launched in Japanese vehicles around 2010



**Standard Group III  
can make 0W-20 oils  
at 15% Volatility**



# New Group III+ Supply

- In 2012 a 1MM MT/yr plant came on line in the Middle East
- Placing this large capacity in the market was a major challenge
  - High quality
  - Group III+ not necessary for 5W-20/30





# Create Demand: Factory Fill → Service Fill

- OEMs are large volume purchasers with fairly stable demand
- Engine Testing showed Group III+ fuel economy as good as Group III
- OEMs receptive to Group III+ oxidation stability, low volatility & image
- 13% volatility 0W-20 oils require a majority of 4cSt Group III+

**Moving key OEMs to 0W-20  
builds market demand**



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# OEMs recommending some 0W



TOYOTA



RENAULT



Volkswagen



SUBARU



HONDA



PSA  
GROUPE



JAGUAR



PORSCHE



VAUXHALL





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# Blenders/Installers challenge - Logistics

**Limited tankage**

**Proliferation of specs and vis grades**



# The Blender's Challenge - Tankage

Blend plants  
are always  
tank limited

Base oil is  
the largest  
stocked  
component

A blend plant will typically have:

two large tanks  
for two grades  
of Group II

two tanks for two  
grades of one  
Group III slate

Limited Group III interchange and expensive OEM approvals  
makes selecting the right slates important



## Low Volatility 0W-XX oils in the blend plant?

- dexos™1 in the US provides some insights
  - Add tankage
  - Shift single plants to Group III+
  - Toll blend specialty oils
- North American market uniquely uniform specifications (~80% API only)





# Multiple low volatility OEM 0W oils very difficult

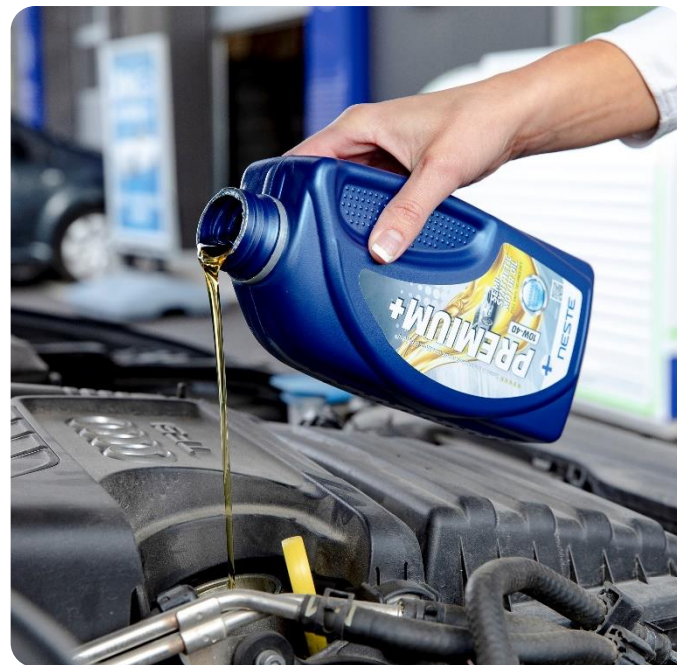
- Dominant 5W oils don't need Group III+
- Commercially available Group III+ slates are limited
- OEM approvals very expensive and take time
  - Toll blending & dedicated plant solutions needed





## Service Fill Installer Challenge - Complexity

- Dealerships often conduct installations while the vehicle is under warranty
- EU OEMs frequently provide multiple service fill oil recommendations
  - Simplicity and cost savings
  - Consumers prefer cheaper and readily available 5W-20/30 to 0W-20





# Predicting Group III to 2025 – North America

- 0W-20/16 oils will become an increasing part of the FF & SF market in the USA
  - 5W-30/20 dominant
  - 0W-20 serviced with standard Group III
- Consumers follow the recommended viscosity grade
- The premium for 0W-20 low volatility oils is low

**Group III+ will be an important part of meeting low volatility specifications using plant segregation & toll blending**



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# Predicting Group III to 2025 – EU and ROW

- 0W-20/16 will grow significantly
- OEMs will rely on major blenders for Factory Fill supply and genuine oils
- More disciplined markets will see significant conformance with OEM viscosity recommendations
- Other markets will see significant substitution of 5W for 0W oils, particularly after the warranty expires



## Summary: Low Viscosity Logistics

Standard  
Group III will  
satisfy 15%  
volatility 5W &  
0W demand

Proliferation of  
specifications &  
viscosity grades is  
very difficult for  
installers &  
blenders

Consumers &  
installers are  
likely to select  
5W-20/30 oils  
outside  
warranty



# Next Generation 0W-8/12 oils

2015 SAE  
added extremely  
low viscosity  
SAE 8 for fuel  
economy

Engines  
designed for  
0W-8 require  
significant  
redesign

0W-8 finished  
fluids today  
have volatility  
>>20%

Future bio-based paraffinic oils with exceptional volatility & cold characteristics may provide new ways to meet these needs



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