

Advanced Emission Technology Compromises Engine Reliability

The Technology and Maintenance Council (TMC) is the technical branch of the American Trucking Association (ATA). The TMC mission is to improve equipment, its maintenance and maintenance management. Membership is on a voluntary basis and includes manufacturers and equipment owners.

The introduction of new engines and engine related technologies to meet the 2002, 2007 and 2010 EPA emission requirements has been a concern to the TMC. The TMC members have been generally positive about each of these new technology developments, but they feel that the 2002 engines have poorer fuel economy, durability, reliability and serviceability when compared to the previous engine designs. Because of these bad experiences with the 2002 emission engines, there are concerns among the TMC members about the 2007 and 2010 engine technologies.

In terms of lubrication, the TMC wants to ensure that the formulation changes have no negative impact on oil drain interval or engine performance. One particular area of interest is how to extend drain intervals without compromising durability and reliability. TMC wants a lubricant to provide sufficient engine protection throughout the warranty period and beyond. The lubricant should do everything that the manufacturer says it will do and perhaps more.

In summary, in order to meet the needs of the members of ATA, engine and lubricant manufacturers will need to do a better job of meeting the new emission requirements scheduled for 2007 and 2010.

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