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Superseding J75 NOV1999

Motor Vehicle Brake Fluid Container Compatibility

1. Scope—Motor vehicle brake fluid must conform to the requirements of SAE J1703 or J1704, not only when manufactured, but also after extended storage in any commercial packaging container. The purpose of this SAE Information Report is to generate an awareness of the major problems involved in the storage of brake fluids and, to some extent, provide means of circumventing them. It is also the purpose of this document to relate to experience and to test data accumulated and to list certain conclusions which should aid in the proper selection of containers for brake fluid.

1.1 Background—A problem in selecting containers for brake fluids is that, in the past, many containers have not been capable of preserving some of the brake fluids in their original state. For instance, SAE J1703 requires that no more than 0.05% by volume of sediment may be found in the fluid at the time of manufacture when tested by the water-tolerance test at 60 °C (140 °F). Some commercially packaged brake fluids known to meet the SAE standards when manufactured have been found to exceed the 0.15% sediment permitted for packaged fluid by as much as ten fold, due to contamination from the container.

The reaction of certain inhibitors and other components commonly used in brake fluids with tin plate, soldered seams of metal cans, organic-coated steel, and plastic containers may create a storage problem because of the formation of precipitates. These precipitates may or may not be soluble in the brake fluid but are often precipitated under conditions of the water-tolerance test and cause the brake fluid to fail this specification. Other properties of the brake fluid such as boiling point, corrosion, and stability may be affected adversely by storage in certain containers.

1.2 Rationale—This document has been reaffirmed to comply with the SAE 5-Year Review policy.

2. References

2.1 Applicable Publications—The following publications form a part of the specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE PUBLICATION—Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

SAE J1703—Motor Vehicle Brake Fluid
SAE J1704—Borate Ester Based Brake Fluid

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