

Conditions for use of performance claims against the ACEA oil sequences

ACEA requires that any claims for oil performance to meet these sequences must be based on credible data and controlled tests in accredited test laboratories.

ACEA requires that engine performance testing used to support a claim of compliance with these ACEA sequences should be generated according to the European Engine Lubricants Quality Management System (EELQMS), but ACEA reserves the right to define alternatives in exceptional cases.

EELQMS which is described in the ATIEL Code of Practice¹, addresses product

development testing and product performance documentation, and involves the registration of all candidate and reference oil testing and defines the compliance process. Compliance with the ATIEL Code of Practice is mandatory for any claim to meet the requirements of the 2010 issue of the ACEA sequences. Therefore ACEA requires that claims against the ACEA oil sequences can only be made by oil companies or oil distributors who have signed the EELQMS oil marketers' Letter of Conformance (for details: www.atiel.org).

The ACEA Oil Sequences are undergoing constant development. Replacement tests and other changes required by the European automobile manufacturers are integrated and new issues are published on a regular basis. As new editions are published older editions have to be withdrawn. Validities of new and old editions are overlapping for limited periods of time as shown in the following table and the accompanying text below. When a new ACEA sequence is introduced, oils with claims against the previous can be marketed only for another two years.

Sequence Issue	First allowable use	Mandatory for new claims	Oils with this claim may be marketed until
2004	1st November 2004	1st November 2005	31st December 2009
2007	1st February 2007	1st February 2008	23rd December 2010
2008	22nd December 2008	22nd December 2009	22nd December 2012
2010	22nd December 2010	22nd December 2011	

Table: For the 2010 issue of the ACEA Oil Sequences: First claims can be made from 22nd December 2010. For another year (until 22nd December 2011), oil marketers can still make new claims against ACEA 2008. Starting with 22nd December 2011 every new claim has to be made against the 2010 ACEA Oil Sequences. All engine oils using claims against the 2008 ACEA Sequences can continue to be marketed until 22nd December 2012.

First allowable use means that claims cannot be made against the specification before the date indicated.

Mandatory for new claims means that from this date onward all claims for new oil formulations must be made according to the latest ACEA Sequence Issue. Up to that date new claims can also be made according to the previous ACEA Sequence Issue. After the date indicated no new claims to the previous ACEA sequence can be made. Then all oil formulations must be developed according to the latest ACEA release.

Oils with this claim may be marketed until means that no further marketing of oils with claims to this issue is allowed after the date indicated.

The marketer of an oil claiming ACEA performance requirements is responsible for all aspects of product liability.

Where limits are shown relative to a reference oil, then these must be compared to the last valid reference result on that test stand prior to the candidate and using the same hardware. Further details will be in the ATIEL Code of Practice.

Where claims are made that oil performance meets the requirements of the ACEA sequences (e.g. product literature, packaging, labels) they must specify the ACEA Class and Category (see Nomenclature & ACEA Process for definitions).

¹ The ATIEL Code of Practice is the sole property of ATIEL and is available from ATIEL (Association Technique de l'Industrie Européenne des Lubrifiants), Boulevard du Souverain 165, B-1160 Brussels, Belgium.