

GF-4?

Why the ?

It has become ever more apparent that all industry stakeholders are unhappy with the current method of developing and specifying new engine oil categories. In the past year or so there has been a number of proposals made to significantly modify these processes. The use of the question mark following GF-4 is simply an indication that it is not yet clear what processes will be used and if they will result in a new category known within the industry as "GF-4", as proposed by ILSAC.

If we may never see an actual ILSAC "GF-4", why refer to that designation at all?

Even with the uncertainty surrounding future new processes, ILSAC has distributed a 'strawman' proposal for GF-4, though not yet for formal comment. There are no other specific new industry-wide, light-duty specifications presently in the public domain. Therefore, it is quite likely that "GF-4" will be the nomenclature that is broadly used in industry discussions for the foreseeable future. This despite the many uncertainties as to what that new category will be when it is finalized.

As with the Infineum *GF-3 Development Notebook*, it is our intent to keep you up-to-date on technical details of the emerging specifications. This will allow you to be well informed of discussions, proposals and likely future process scenarios as we all wend our way through the interesting but uncertain future.