

# Extended Life Antifreeze / Coolant

Light duty and heavy duty maintenance technology and methodology is constantly changing. One of these technological changes involves the antifreeze/coolant available for use in cooling systems. A new type of coolant, referred to as extended life or long life, is now available. The chemistry used in this product is unique and very different from that used in traditional coolants. These differences require a significant change in the maintenance procedures used to maintain cooling systems when extended life coolant is utilized.

The total maintenance package offered by the use of extended life coolant is directed at extending total cooling system drain intervals to 300,000 miles, 6000 hours or four years, whichever comes first. Since this doubles all existing engine manufacturers current recommendations, some specific maintenance practices must be adhered to in order to realize the benefits of extended life coolant.

Extended life coolants are available in both ethylene and propylene glycol bases. These can be either undiluted or pre-mixed 50/50 with water. Of specific interest is the corrosion inhibitor additive package used in the extended life coolants. Its major ingredient is an organic acid. Because of the organic acid in the additive package and some other chemical characteristics of extended life coolant, the depletion of the corrosion inhibitors is very different than coolants utilizing traditional supplemental coolant additives (SCA's).

While traditional coolants using current SCA's require the SCA level to be replenished on a routine basis, extended life coolants require inhibitor package replenishment only once during their service life. The inhibitor additive for extended life coolant is not an SCA style package. Only a special formulation additive package is to be used with extended life coolants. Neither the current formulation SCA package nor the special extended life packages are to be substituted for each other at anytime.

Although extended life coolant is chemically compatible with traditional formulation coolants, it is the recommendation of all extended life coolant manufacturers and suppliers that the two types not be mixed. Mixing the two types of coolants completely negates any extended life characteristics. For this reason, extended life coolants have been colored red and orange depending on



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the supplier. Other colors may appear in the future. Top-off and refill of these systems is to be done only with the appropriate products. Further, if a coolant recycling program is being used, the extended life coolants should be segregated from the traditional coolants and the recycling process reviewed. Also, the original coolant manufacturer's recommendations for recycling should be reviewed.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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