

Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, California 95826-4808

DMS NOTICE
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June 26, 2001

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT: Statewide Packaged Petroleum and Automotive Products Quality
and Labeling Baseline Survey**

The Division of Measurement Standards has completed a statewide survey for quality and labeling of packaged petroleum and automotive products. The survey was done between the months of February 2001 and April 2001.

Our Weighmaster/Petroleum Enforcement Branch randomly selected 202 samples of motor oil, 67 samples of automatic transmission fluids, and 41 samples of engine coolants. The following attachments outline the parameters used and provide the detailed results of the survey.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact David Lazier, Chief, Weighmaster/Petroleum Enforcement Branch, at (916) 229-3044.

Sincerely,

Mike Cleary
Director
(916) 229-3000

Attachments

**MARKETPLACE EVALUATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**

**PACKAGED PETROLEUM AND AUTOMOTIVE
PRODUCTS QUALITY AND LABELING
BASELINE SURVEY**

JUNE 2001

DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS STATEWIDE PACKAGED PETROLEUM AND AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS QUALITY AND LABELING BASELINE SURVEY

A statewide random survey to determine the baseline compliance levels for packaged petroleum and automotive product quality and labeling was conducted within California from February 2001 through April 2001.

Scope of the Survey

The Division of Measurement Standards Weighmaster Enforcement/Petroleum Products Branch staff sampled packaged motor oils, automatic transmission fluids, and engine coolants at randomly selected locations throughout the State. The State Laboratory Services Unit in Sacramento tested the samples for compliance with the adopted quality specifications and evaluated the labels on the packages for compliance with applicable requirements.

Location and Sample Selection

A total of two hundred two (202) motor oil, sixty-seven (67) automatic transmission fluid, and forty-one (41) engine coolant packages were randomly selected and evaluated for quality and labeling compliance. Packages were purchased at service stations, auto parts stores, automobile and motorcycle dealerships, marinas, grocery stores, hardware stores, and other retail locations. Weighmaster Enforcement/Petroleum Products Branch staff were given both specific brands and locations to sample from. When designated brands were not found at the identified location, a list of alternate brands was consulted.

Survey Results

The following charts summarize the results of the baseline survey. The results should be useful to weights and measures officials in determining which areas of the marketplace to focus their enforcement activities.

MOTOR OIL QUALITY AND LABELING

Total number of motor oil samples taken	202
Overall percent compliance for motor oil specifications	99%
Overall percent compliance for labeling requirements	45%

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION FLUID QUALITY AND LABELING

Total number of automatic transmission fluid (ATF) samples taken	67
Overall percent compliance for ATF specifications	98%
Overall percent compliance for ATF labeling requirements	94%

ENGINE COOLANT QUALITY AND LABELING

Total number of engine coolant samples taken	41
Overall percent compliance for engine coolant specifications	88%*
Overall percent compliance for engine coolant labeling requirements	46%

- * The quality compliance problem with engine coolants relates to low reserve alkalinity values obtained for combination passenger car/light-duty truck and heavy-duty truck coolants as well as extended life coolants. California regulations provide a method to exempt these types of coolants from the reserve alkalinity requirement. The packagers of those products that failed this specification will be contacted regarding the exemption. Discounting the reserve alkalinity specification, the overall percent compliance for engine coolants was 100%.

Labeling Issues

Packagers generally are complying with the requirements for brand name, product name, and grade. The labeling requirements mandated by California law and regulation for motor oils and engine coolants are far more detailed than for automatic transmission fluids. Many problems were found to exist with the detailed technical labeling requirements for motor oils and engine coolants.

Generally, these problems can be categorized as follows: (1) the required SAE/API engine service classification labeling size was missing or was too small; (2) the general statement of intended use was missing; (3) the freeze point protection chart or statement was missing; (4) the boil point protection statement was missing; (5) the statement that the engine coolant was prediluted and the "DO NOT ADD WATER" statement was missing; and (6) there were missing batch numbers. The packagers of these products will be contacted regarding proper labeling requirements.