

NEW OIL STANDARDS FOR 2011

What is

GF-5 ?

- GF-5 is a new standard for oil developed by ILSAC (an organization made up of auto manufacturers). It replaces the current GF-4 standard that has been in place for about 6 years. ILSAC develops new standards for oil as engine technology advances and thus demands improved performance from oils.

How does this affect me?

- Since the auto manufacturers helped develop GF-5, they want you to use it in their vehicles. In fact, Ford, Chrysler, and Japanese auto manufacturers expect you to use it if you want to keep your engine warranty in good standing. If your engine fails while still under warranty, these manufacturers may test the oil in the engine to be sure its GF-5 before they honor the warranty.

What is

dexos1 ?

- This year, General Motors decided to start setting their own specification for oil used in their vehicles. They have developed their own specifically formulated and licensed standard called dexos. dexos1 for gasoline vehicles and dexos2 for diesels.

How does this affect me?

- General Motors developed dexos specifically with their engines in mind. So of course, they recommend it for all GM cars. And, if your GM engine is still under warranty, they expect you to use dexos approved oils when you change your oil. Not doing so can adversely affect your warranty. GM owners could probably expect manufacturers to take an oil sample from their engine should problems occur with the engine while it's under warranty.

Are there benefits to using these new oils?

- Auto manufacturers set out to demand higher specifications for oil when they developed these new standards. They wanted to improve over the past GF-4 standard in many ways. See the graph on the lower right to see how GF-4, GF-5 and dexos compare.

But what if I like the oil I'm using now and don't want to switch?

- Your choice of oil is entirely up to you. We are happy to use whatever brand and type of oil you prefer in your vehicle. Just be aware that the choices you make could affect the engine warranty if your vehicle has one.

Can I use GF-5 or dexos in my older car?

- Yes. Both new standards are backwards compatible.

