

NIST Handbook 130 – Labeling of Vehicle Engine (Motor) Oil Regulations

At the 104th National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) Annual Meeting in 2012, new amendments were approved to NIST Handbook 130 that put in place motor oil labelling regulations all motor oil installers should be aware of. As some have painfully experienced, the Department of Weights and measures in many states enforce these regulations and they can levy fines and effectively shut down an installer’s operation due to an installer’s failure to comply with them.

In summary, the regulations require the label on all vehicle engine oil containers, receptacles, dispensers, or storage tanks, and any invoice, receipt, work order, or packing slip that includes the installation of vehicle engine oil displays the following:

- **VISCOSITY GRADE**

The viscosity grade classification preceded with the words “SAE” in accordance with the SAE International’s latest version of SAE J300.

Example: SAE 5W-30

- **INTENDED USE**

A statement if intended use in accordance with the latest version of SAE J183, “Engine Oil Performance and engine Service classification (other than Energy Conserving.”

Example: API SP ILSAC GF-6A

- **BRAND**

The name, brand, trademark, or tradename of the vehicle engine oil.

Example Mobil Special Synthetic Blend

- **ENGINE SERVICE CATEGORY**

Engine service category, or categories, met in letters not less than 3.18 mm (1/8 inch) in height, as defined by the latest version of SAE J183, “Engine Oil Performance and Engine Service Classification (other than Energy Conserving”) or API Publication 1509, “Engine Oil Licensing and Certification System.”

- **INACTIVE OR OBSOLETE SERVICE CATEGORIES**

Shall bear a plainly visible cautionary statement in compliance with the latest version of SAE J183, Appendix A, whenever the vehicle engine (motor) oil in the container or in bulk does not meet an active API service category as defined by the latest version of SAE J183, "Engine Oil Performance and Engine Service Classification (Other than "Energy Conserving")."

COMPLETE AND PROPER LABELING EXAMPLE: Mobil Special Synthetic Blend SAE 5W-30 API SP ILSAC GF-6A

The new regulations also address labelling requirements motor oil suppliers must comply with for each delivery of bulk product. It is important for installers to also be aware of these regulations and check to assure the documentation they receive from their suppliers for bulk deliveries comply with them. This regulation states:

When the engine (motor) oil is sold in bulk, an invoice, bill of lading, shipping paper, or other documentation must accompany each delivery. This document must identify the quantity of bulk engine (motor) oil delivered as defined in Sections 2.33.1.1. "Viscosity"; 2.33.1.2. "Brand"; 2.33.1.3. "Engine Service Category"; the name and address of the seller and buyer; and the date and time of the sale. For inactive or obsolete service categories, the documentation shall also bear a plainly visible cautionary statement as required in Section 2.33.1.3.2. "Inactive or Obsolete Service Categories". Documentation must be retained at the retail establishment for a period of not less than one year.

Again, it is important to be aware that many states enforce these regulations and can levy fines and effectively shut down an installer's operation due to an installer's failure to comply with these labeling regulations.

The attached tables provide an overview of the status of adoption of the NCWM standards by state.

The information provided in this bulletin paper is provided through a collaboration between PQIA and Brenntag Lubricants Northeast and is not intended to be used as legal advice. We believe an informed and knowledgeable installer can enhance their business and protect the integrity of their brand by following proper motor oil container/dispenser and invoicing regulations.

“This is an overview of the status of adoption of NCWM standards by the states. In earlier editions of Handbook 130, state laws and regulations were compared to the NCWM standard from the prior year. This did not indicate whether the standard as printed in the current edition had been adopted by any given state. The table lists those states that adopt NCWM-recommended updates automatically (“YES”); see Sections 4 through 10 and paragraph 12(m) of the Uniform Weights and Measures Law. This means the state’s regulations are current with those printed in this edition of the handbook. If a state has adopted an NCWM recommendation in whole or in part from a particular year, but updates are not incorporated automatically, a lower case “

State	Laws			Regulations									
	Weights and Measures Law	Weights and Measures Law or Regulation	Uniform Fuel Law	Packaging and Labeling	Method of Sale	Price Verification	Unit Pricing	Registration of Service Agencies	Open Dating	Type Evaluation	Uniform Fuel Regulation	Handbook 44	Handbook 133
Alabama	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	YES	NO	yes	NO	yes	yes*	YES	YES
Alaska	yes	NO	NO	yes	yes	yes	NO	NO	NO	yes	NO	YES	yes
Arizona	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	NO	yes	yes*	yes	yes
Arkansas	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
California	yes*	yes*	yes*	YES	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes*	NO	yes*	yes*	YES	YES
Colorado	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	NO	yes	yes*	YES	YES
Connecticut	yes	yes	yes*	YES	YES	YES	yes*	yes*	YES	yes	yes	YES	YES
Delaware	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	no	yes*	no	yes	yes*	YES	YES
District of Columbia	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes*	NO	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes
Florida	yes	NO	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes*	yes	no	yes	yes*	yes	yes
Georgia	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	YES	NO	yes	yes*	yes	yes*	YES	YES
Hawaii	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes*	yes	yes
Idaho	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes*	no	yes	NO	yes	yes*	YES	yes
Illinois	yes	NO	yes*	YES	YES	NO	NO	yes	NO	yes	yes	YES	YES
Indiana	yes	yes*	yes*	yes	yes	NO	NO	NO	NO	yes	yes*	yes	yes
Iowa	yes	yes*	yes*	yes	yes	YES	NO	yes*	NO	yes	yes*	yes	yes
Kansas	yes*	NO	yes*	yes	yes	yes*	NO	yes*	NO	yes	yes	yes	yes

Key: YES Adopted and updated on an annual basis.
 yes Law or regulation in force, NCWM standard used as basis of adoption, but from an earlier year.
 yes* Law or regulations in force, but not based on NCWM standard.
 NO No law or regulation.
 no No law or regulation, but NCWM standard is used as a guideline.

This document is available free of charge from: <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.HB.130-2020>

State	Laws			Regulations									
	Weights and Measures Law	Weightmaster Law or Regulation	Uniform Fuel Law	Packaging and Labeling	Method of Sale	Price Verification	Unit Pricing	Registration of Service Agencies	Open Dating	Type Evaluation	Uniform Fuel Regulation	Handbook 44	Handbook 133
Kentucky	yes	NO	yes*	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes*	NO	yes	yes*	YES	yes
Louisiana	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes*	NO	YES	NO	yes*	NO	yes*	yes*	YES	no
Maine	yes	yes	yes*	YES	YES	YES	NO	yes	NO	yes	YES	YES	no
Maryland	yes	NO	yes*	YES	yes	no	yes*	yes*	NO	yes	yes*	YES	YES
Massachusetts	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes	yes*	YES	yes*	NO	NO	yes	yes*	YES	no
Michigan	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	NO	NO	yes	yes*	yes	yes*	yes	no
Minnesota	yes	NO	yes*	yes*	yes*	NO	NO	yes*	yes*	yes	yes*	yes	yes
Mississippi	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes*	YES	YES
Missouri	yes	NO	yes	YES	YES	YES	no	YES	NO	YES	yes	YES	YES
Montana	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	yes
Nebraska	yes	NO	NO	yes	yes	yes*	NO	yes	NO	yes*	NO	yes	yes
Nevada	yes	yes	yes*	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	yes*	YES	YES
New Hampshire	yes	yes*	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	yes*	yes*	no	no	YES	YES
New Jersey	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes*	yes*	yes*	NO	yes*	YES	YES	NO
New Mexico	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes*	NO	yes	yes*	no	yes*	YES	YES
New York	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes*	NO	NO	yes	yes*	yes	yes
North Carolina	yes	yes*	yes*	YES	YES	yes	NO	yes	NO	yes	yes*	YES	YES

Key: YES Adopted and updated on an annual basis.
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North Dakota	YES	NO	NO	NO	yes*	NO	NO	yes*	NO	NO	yes*	yes*	NO
Ohio	yes	NO	NO	yes	yes	YES	NO	yes	NO	yes	NO	YES	YES
Oklahoma	YES	NO	yes*	YES	YES	yes*	NO	yes*	YES	YES	yes*	YES	YES
Oregon	yes*	NO	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes*	NO	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes	yes
Pennsylvania	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
Puerto Rico	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes	yes*	yes	yes*	YES	YES
Rhode Island	no	no	yes*	yes*	YES	no	yes*	NO	yes*	no	no	YES	no
South Carolina	yes	yes*	yes*	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	yes*	YES	YES
South Dakota	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tennessee	yes	yes	yes	YES	YES	YES	NO	yes	NO	YES	yes	YES	YES
Texas	yes	yes*	yes*	YES	YES	yes*	NO	yes	NO	NO	yes*	YES	YES
Utah	yes	NO	yes*	YES	YES	YES	NO	yes	NO	YES	yes	YES	YES
Vermont	yes*	yes	yes*	YES	YES	YES	yes*	yes	NO	no	NO	YES	yes
Virginia	yes*	yes*	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	yes*	NO	yes*	YES	YES	YES
Virgin Islands	yes	NO	yes*	yes	NO	NO	yes	NO	yes	NO	yes	YES	no
Washington	yes	yes	yes	YES	YES	YES	NO	yes	yes	YES	yes	YES	YES
West Virginia	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Key: YES Adopted and updated on an annual basis. yes Law or regulation in force, NCWM standard used as basis of adoption, but from an earlier year. yes* Law or regulations in force, but not based on NCWM standard. NO No law or regulation. no No law or regulation, but NCWM standard is used as a guideline.													

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North Dakota	YES	NO	NO	NO	yes*	NO	NO	yes*	NO	NO	yes*	yes*	NO
Ohio	yes	NO	NO	yes	yes	YES	NO	yes	NO	yes	NO	YES	YES
Oklahoma	YES	NO	yes*	YES	YES	yes*	NO	yes*	YES	YES	yes*	YES	YES
Oregon	yes*	NO	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes*	NO	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes	yes
Pennsylvania	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
Puerto Rico	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes	yes*	yes	yes*	YES	YES
Rhode Island	no	no	yes*	yes*	YES	no	yes*	NO	yes*	no	no	YES	no
South Carolina	yes	yes*	yes*	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	yes*	YES	YES
South Dakota	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tennessee	yes	yes	yes	YES	YES	YES	NO	yes	NO	YES	yes	YES	YES
Texas	yes	yes*	yes*	YES	YES	yes*	NO	yes	NO	NO	yes*	YES	YES
Utah	yes	NO	yes*	YES	YES	YES	NO	yes	NO	YES	yes	YES	YES
Vermont	yes*	yes	yes*	YES	YES	YES	yes*	yes	NO	no	NO	YES	yes
Virginia	yes*	yes*	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	yes*	NO	yes*	YES	YES	YES
Virgin Islands	yes	NO	yes*	yes	NO	NO	yes	NO	yes	NO	yes	YES	no
Washington	yes	yes	yes	YES	YES	YES	NO	yes	yes	YES	yes	YES	YES
West Virginia	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
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