Petroleum products

Engine oil

SAE viscosity and API service category

SAE 20W-50 · API SL/CF



Material illustration

Technical characteristics

Engine oil, SAE 20W-50 · API SL/CF. SAE identifies the viscosity class and API identifies the engine service category.

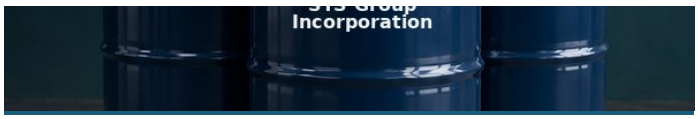
Property	Reference value	Method or source
Viscosity at 100 °C	**16.3 ≤ ν < 21.9 mm²/s**	SAE J300
Service category	**API SL/CF**	API
Cold cranking (CCS)	**≤ 9500 mPa·s / −15 °C**	SAE J300
Low-temperature pumping (MRV)	**≤ 60 000 mPa·s / −20 °C**	SAE J300
HTHS · 150 °C	**≥ 3.7 mPa·s**	SAE J300
Kinematic viscosity	**ASTM D445**	ASTM D445

Under SAE J300 the kinematic viscosity band at 100 °C is 16.3 ≤ ν < 21.9 mm²/s. ASTM D445 measures this property. High-temperature, high-shear viscosity (HTHS) is a separate measurement. The 20W designation covers low-temperature cranking and pumpability tests.



Applications

For petrol engines whose service manual specifies SAE 20W-50 and API SL/CF. Mixed fleets also need to account for engine type and cold-start conditions. API lists SL for petrol engines of model year 2004 and earlier, subject to the individual vehicle's requirements.



Packaging and receipt

Packs suit individual service jobs and drums suit workshops with pump dispensing. IBCs or bulk delivery can be agreed for central stores. Each container is identified by fluid and lot.

For acceptance, check the agreed specification and the certificate of analysis (COA) for the delivered lot.