

Mr. James Linden
Chair
VID Consortium

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Linden,

A VID Matrix Design and Funding Subgroup, reporting to ASTM Passenger Car Engine Oil Classification Panel, has recently been formed. The purpose of this group is to recommend precision and BOI/VGRA matrices for VID as well as associated cost estimates and funding structures. By addressing these issues early, we hope to accelerate the process to meet the current GF-5 timeline for new test development.

On behalf on the Sub-group, we'd like to request the VID Consortium to release the following information to enable our work. Please note that this Sub-group operates under ASTM rules so all information released are considered public knowledge.

First, please advise when the research report including final test procedure can be made to the PCEOCP for review. This impacts all subsequent industry activities and will help this Sub-group establish a meaningful timeline accordingly.

Second, please disclose the latest test procedure in sufficient detail as soon as possible. This is necessary to enable laboratories outside of the Consortium assess their capability to participate in the upcoming matrix testing as well as test cost. We understand the Consortium is operating under a confidentiality agreement. However, it may not be necessary to disclose the whole test procedure which may not have been finalized. The key information will be those pertinent to lab setup and test operation.

Third, please provide additional information regarding the reference oils currently used in the Consortium. The 10 consortium reference oils have been previously described in ASTM PCEOCP meetings as part of the progress update. However, the Sub-group will need to know if any of these oils can be categorized as based on current or prototype GF-5 technologies so the Sub-group can decide whether to use them as the basis to design the matrix. It is also important to know if these oils will be available in sufficient quantities for matrix testing.

Finally, the Sub-group would like to remind the Consortium that data showing proper discrimination with the final VID procedure using reference oils representing current or prototype GF-5 technology are required before any ASTM matrix testing can start. This usually requires a minimum of three (3) oils for discrimination, and must have a minimum of two (2) valid test results for each oil in the latest test procedure. In addition, there needs to be sufficient supply of critical test parts and critical test fuel used in the matrix in post-matrix testing beyond one reference cycle.

Your quick assistance to the above information is greatly appreciated.

Jerry Wang
Chair, ASTM PCEOCP MDF Subgroup