Mobil Delvac 80 YEARS of Heavy Duty Performance

Extending oil-drain intervals from 600 to 900 hours with Mobil Delvac 1300 Super cut costs dramatically. Doing it in stages allowed the customer to

Lower the risk and raise the reward

For the owners of a 700-unit fleet of cement trucks, it was easy to see the appeal in boosting oil-drain intervals. Not counting the benefits of increased equipment availability, the savings in oil, filters and labour alone would significantly lower expenses.

The reformulation of Mobil Delvac 1300 Super – with the promise of improved performance in older, as well as new engines – was an added impetus for longer oil-drain intervals.

Glenn Thompson, a Technical Specialist with Imperial Oil's Field Technical Services, says one vital key to this program was moving in stages. "We increased the 600-hour oil-drain interval by 50 percent. But we didn't leap directly to 900 hours. We took time to evaluate every 100-hour increase."

First step was to determine if reformulated Mobil Delvac 1300 Super would be acceptable for the entire fleet of trucks, and to see if oil-drain intervals could be extended safely. A trial run on two Cummins ISM engines succeeded; on a subsequent test on the same units, drain intervals were raised to 700 hours. Mobil Delvac 1300 Super excelled again. Next target: 800 hours.

"Because Imperial Oil has done so many studies on heavy-duty engines, we were comfortable recommending up to 850 hours," says Thompson. "The driving factor in moving beyond that was the customer's other maintenance schedules. They made a better fit with a 900-hour oil-drain interval."

For the next stage of testing, six cement trucks powered by Cummins ISM engines, each equipped with diesel particulate filters (DPFs) were selected. Thompson says, "No two engines are exactly the same. Even the type of driver can make a difference. These six were all the same model, but some were older and had more hours. It was important for these six units to be a fair representation of the fleet."

Oil samples were drawn from test units at approximately 600, 750 and 900 hours.

The results were monitored for wear metals (iron, copper, lead, chromium and aluminum), viscosity, soot, oxidation and silicon content.

Thompson says Mobil Delvac 1300 Super demonstrated "excellent performance" at every interval. With extended oil-drain intervals across the 700-unit fleet, the customer now enjoys annual savings exceeding $210,300. And by getting there in stages, that reward was earned with minimal risk.

Thompson adds a closing note to the theme of keeping risk to a minimum. "While six engines provide a good representative sample, remember that no two engines are exactly the same. Customers should continue to monitor used-oil data from every unit in the fleet to ensure that a longer oil-drain interval is safe for every engine."

Oil-drain intervals extended 50 percent. Estimated yearly savings: $210,300!

The field-proven performance of Mobil Delvac 1300 Super, combined with the expertise of Imperial Oil's Field Technical Services, helped deliver significant savings at minimal risk to a large cement supplier in Western Canada.

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