

LOW VISCOSITY OILS

EXPLANATION

- Newest grade of gasoline engine oils is SAE 0W-16
- Thinnest oil with lower VI formulated for better performance in low temperatures and greater fuel economy
- API began approval of formula licensing for 0W-16, but as of March 2018 only 39 licenses have been issued world-wide (ex. Shell, Citgo, Nippon)
- 11 of those 39 licenses belong to companies based in USA

USE

- Toyota now recommends SAE 0W-16 for the 2018 Camry 2.5 liter engine model , but accepts use of a 0W-20 when the thinner oil is not available
- Honda allows SAE 0W-16 in the FIT and Accord hybrid vehicle models
- Backwards service compatibility in SAE 0W-16 is not possible, unlike other multi-grade oils

PACKAGING

- Product labels cannot include the ILSAC starburst symbol until GF-6 is approved, which is estimated to be sometime in 2020
- The most popular package sizes in the USA are expected to be sold by distributors in 1 quart bottles and the 6 gallon bag-in-a-box until US volume grows
- The most popular package sizes selling globally are expected to be 1 liter and 5 liter bottles

POTENTIAL FUTURE TRENDS

- High level industry discussions about creating a different starburst or symbol mark is ongoing
- Japanese OEMs are working on performance requirements for even thinner engine oils such as a SAE 0W-8 and SAE 0W-12 that would be for use in certain engine types
- Discussions are ongoing about creating a different set of tests and requirements for those new ultra-low viscosity engine oils
- Potential for redesigning synthetic base stocks for improved viscometrics and performance in low temperatures

