

## **ATIEL's role in policing the European Engine Lubricant Quality Monitoring System (EELQMS)**

Date: September 6, 2006

The EELQMS guidelines are described in the ATIEL Code of Practice which states that the Code is open to all companies on a voluntary basis. The Code also states that the lubricant marketer is fully responsible for the quality of the lubricant reaching the consumer together with the performance claims being made in the market place.

ATIEL does not monitor compliance with the EELQMS guidelines. EELQMS compliance is based on self-certification.

Internal auditing is the main check that a company complies with the EELQMS standards and the ATIEL Code of Practice requires companies claiming to develop engine oils according to the EELQMS guidelines to:

- inform its auditors of its agreement to implement EELQMS
- ensure that its ISO 9001 or equivalent procedures include conformance with the ATIEL Code of Practice and to identify these procedures to external ISO 9001 (or equivalent) auditors
- provide such auditors with the relevant copy(ies) of the ATIEL Code of Practice

The primary aim of EELQMS is to generate an ACEA Performance Data Set to support fully the technical integrity of a candidate lubricant relative to the ACEA performance requirements. This data set is signed off by an authorised company representative and must be made available, along with other documentation, to the internal auditors.

If a third party (i.e. consumer or competitor or an ACEA member), wishes to challenge the validity of a claim to meet ACEA sequences their first course of action could be to request the company to provide evidence that it passed an internal audit of its EELQMS procedures and/or to produce the signed ACEA Performance Data set and other relevant documentation.

If this approach fails, the third party can complain to local trade bodies or courts and ask them to enforce local trade practice laws and trade description acts.

Note that oil marketers wishing to declare their participation in EELQMS may do so by submitting the EELQMS Letter of Conformance to ATIEL who publish the list of signatories on its website. Signing the Letter of Conformance is not, however, mandatory. ATIEL does not assume responsibility for the implementation of the obligations defined in the Letter of Conformance or for any damage that a breach thereof may cause to third parties.