



Sub-standard oil a hidden danger

Sub-standard and non certified oils are being poured in Australian vehicles potentially voiding vehicle warranty and Australian motorists are unaware this is happening.

Most vehicle manufacturers around the world specify API (American Petroleum Institute) certified oils only be used in their vehicles, however, consumers are not receiving these oils during their regular service, putting their warranties at risk.

With a million new vehicles driving onto Australian roads every year and service centres not adhering to the manufacturer's specifications, there is a major underlying problem, often resulting in premature wear and equipment failure.

Many brands of oil in Australia claim to 'meet or exceed' the standards set by the world body, "but this is not sufficient" claim manufacturers like Detroit Diesel, one of the worlds biggest engine suppliers. Only those brands carrying the API certification symbols are willing to follow the stringent API requirements, which include continual and random testing.

"Consumers need to know that major name brands do not automatically achieve certification, in fact, some of the largest selling oils in Australia have no API certification at all," says Goran Gorgioski, Director of United Oil.

"Whether you have a new car or an older car, it's just as important to know whether your vehicle is being damaged by non-certified and self-regulated oil."

Additionally, James McCall, CEO of the MTA (Motor Traders Association) says, "There is a distinct lack of awareness and education and there does exist a 'one oil fits all' mentality."

"That's why it's so important to demand information about exactly what is going into your vehicle.

"The specifications laid down by the vehicle's manufacturer need to be adhered to for safety and reliability.

"So it's important to look for the API standard or the new QA MTA standard sticker to be assured, and be sure to ask your mechanic for proof wherever you get a service."