PURPOSE

This Bulletin has been prepared to inform you of a new service designation (rating) in automotive engine lubricating oils for WATER-COOLED gasoline engines. The new designation is identified with an American Petroleum Institute (API) Service letter designation “SJ” (the previous service designation was “SH”).

BACKGROUND

Beginning October 15, 1996, oil companies could begin using the API SJ designation. This new SJ oil is designed, among other things, to improve fuel economy in water-cooled automotive engines. SJ oil has been formulated for water-cooled engines normally operating with oil temperatures less than 200°F. Harley-Davidson AIR-COOLED engines typically operate with oil temperatures greater than 200°F.

Genuine Harley-Davidson Motor Oil has an exclusive additive package designed and tested for use in Harley-Davidson V-twin AIR-COOLED engines which is different from the additive package in water-cooled automotive engine oils. The formulation of all Genuine Harley-Davidson Motor Oils will not be changed because of the new SJ service designation.

Because the new SJ oil additive package differs from the additive package in Harley-Davidson Motor Oils, we recommend that you advise your customers to use Genuine Harley-Davidson oil. Our formulation will not be changed to SJ requirements and will continue to be formulated with the additive package that has protected Harley-Davidson AIR-COOLED engines during rigorous testing by Harley-Davidson and years of operation by H-D Owner’s.

OWNER’S MANUAL RAMIFICATIONS

If it is necessary to add oil between oil changes and Harley-Davidson oil is not available, use an oil certified for diesel engines. Diesel engine oil designated CE, CF, CF-4 or CG-4 is acceptable. The preferred viscosities in descending order are: 20W-50, 15W-40 and 10W-40. Since higher viscosity oils provide better lubrication for Harley-Davidson AIR-COOLED engines, 5W-30 and 10W-30 oils are not recommended for Harley-Davidson AIR-COOLED engines.

NOTE

The recommendation above is a change from the recommendation given in the Owner’s Manuals. Previously, Harley-Davidson recommended using the highest classification motor oil available.

OIL RECOMMENDATION

H-D has always recommended the use of Genuine Harley-Davidson Oil in our engines and that your customers follow the recommended oil change intervals given in the Owner’s Manuals.

Now, more than ever, we recommend that H-D owners use Genuine Harley-Davidson Motor Oil, which is specifically formulated and exclusive to Harley-Davidson.

If your customers (for any reason) are not using Genuine Harley-Davidson Motor Oil, it is time to get them back to using the only motor oil recommended by Harley-Davidson Motor Company.