

**G-16-A**

“API SJ And “ILSAC” What Do They Mean And... What Is The Real Difference?

In December 1995, Pennzoil was the first motor oil to upgrade to the ILSAC GF-2 performance level. On October 15, 1997, Pennzoil announced that it exceeded the requirements for API SJ in all viscosity grades. Pennzoil made both of these changes, yet only the API Donut symbol changed. The ILSAC “Starburst” symbol did not. Are you confused? What does each symbol really mean?

What Is API SJ?

API SJ is the highest American Petroleum Institute performance level or category for gasoline engine motor oils. API SJ replaced API SH and can be used where all former “S” designations are recommended. In order to earn the API SJ designation, motor oils must show improved performance at cold temperature start-ups, provide improved protection against foaming at high RPM, protect better against engine deposits, help reduce oil consumption and help avoid repairs to catalytic converters.

All API SJ motor oils are not the same, however. API SJ is only a minimum performance standard. In preparation for future industry needs, Pennzoil already performs beyond the API SJ level. Pennzoil’s high quality base oils, PureBase™, and Pennzoil’s unique motor oil additive package, Z-7[®], combine to form a quality motor oil that meets demands that auto manufacturers are now only beginning to discuss.

The API Symbol (below), sometimes called the "Donut," will continue to be used on motor oil containers. On Pennzoil motor oils this symbol will be found on the back label of the container. The top part of the “Donut” contains the API service category or categories. The center portion shows the viscosity grade, and the bottom half states the energy conserving properties of the motor oil. The new category "API SJ" can be found in the top portion of the “Donut” for all Pennzoil passenger car motor oils.

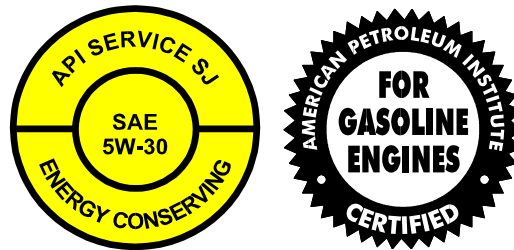
What Is ILSAC?

ILSAC stands for International Lubricants Standardization and Approval Committee. This organization consists of American and Japanese automakers. This group defined the requirements for the ILSAC Certification Mark or “Starburst,” shown below on the right. The Starburst must appear on the front label of a qualified motor oil. To earn this symbol, the motor oil has to meet the API SJ requirements and also pass the requirements for “Energy Conserving.” An oil displaying this symbol is also subject to aftermarket audits to confirm its quality in the field. The motor oil and automotive industries developed this “Starburst” symbol to help consumers identify motor oils that meet

“minimum” requirements deemed necessary by the automakers. Unlike the API Donut, the “Starburst” symbol will not change with future technical advancements in motor oil quality. The presence of the “Starburst” on the label means that the motor oil meets the latest ILSAC requirements. The automakers hope that this feature will help consumers recognize the Starburst symbol and look for it when selecting motor oils for their vehicles.

Because an oil must pass fuel economy requirements to earn the Starburst symbol, this symbol will only be found on lighter viscosity motor oils, such as SAE 5W-30 and SAE 10W-30. These are the oil viscosity grades recommended for new cars manufactured by General Motors, Chrysler and Ford. Japanese car manufacturers also prefer these lighter viscosity grades for their new cars.

THERE ARE TWO SYMBOLS



Summary of The Symbol Story

- All Pennzoil passenger car motor oils exceed the API SJ performance standard and show this in the API Donut on the back label of the containers.
- Pennzoil[®] Multigrade SAE 5W-30, and SAE 10W-30, and PZL Turbo[®] SAE 10W-30 exceed the ILSAC Certification Mark requirements and show the Starburst on the front label. Although the performance requirements to earn the Starburst are now more rigorous, this symbol did not change with the upgrade.
- Pennzoil Performax[®] 100 SAE 5W-30 and SAE 10W-30 synthetic motor oils also exceed the ILSAC standards.
- All Pennzoil passenger car motor oils are registered with API and are licensed as meeting the requirements as stated above.

To keep your Technical Manual current file in Section G: General. This bulletin supersedes Technical Information Bulletin G-16 that should be removed and discarded.

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