April 1, 2020

TO:       API Engine Oil Licensing and Certification System (EOLCS) Licensees
           API Lubricants Group
           Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Provisional Licensing for ILSAC GF-6A, ILSAC GF-6B, API SP with Resource Conserving and
          SN PLUS, API SP with SN PLUS, ILSAC GF-5, API SN with Resource Conserving, API SN with
          Resource Conserving and SN PLUS, API SN with SN PLUS, and API SN

API has learned that high demand for the ASTM D7528 (“ROBO”) test, resulting from testing in advance of the
May 1, 2020 first-licensing date for the new ILSAC GF-6A, ILSAC-GF-6B and API SP standards, has contributed
to a backlog at independent test laboratories. The ROBO measures an oil’s ability to maintain low temperature
viscosity after aging. In response to this situation, API’s Engine Oil Licensing and Certification System (EOLCS)
has invoked Provisional Licensing in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of API 1509. Provisional Licensing applies to
oil marketers that need to run the ROBO test to qualify a formulation as any of the following: ILSAC GF-6A;
ILSAC GF-6B; API SP with Resource Conserving and SN PLUS; API SP with SN PLUS; ILSAC GF-5; API SN
with Resource Conserving; API SN with Resource Conserving and SN PLUS; API SN with SN PLUS; and API
SN. Provisional Licensing will be invoked immediately and will close on August 1, 2020. On August 1, API will
review the situation at the independent labs and determine if the provisional licensing period should be extended.

The requirements and application instructions for Provisional Licensing are provided below:

1. A request for Provisional Licensing of an oil formulation is made by checking the Provisional License box
found on the Formulation Information screen of the EOLCS online application system. Note that this box
should only be checked if an ASTM D7528 test has not been completed on the formulation.
2. If prompted to enter ROBO test data, the data fields are required. Select ROBO from the dropdown. Please
enter ‘5678’ for MRV Viscosity and complete the remaining fields.
3. After Provisional Licensing closes, a licensee with a provisionally licensed formulation will be given 6 months
to obtain a passing ROBO result.
4. The licensee will request full licensing of the oil formulation by submitting a new formulation through the online
application system. API will review the formulation and, once approved, withdraw the provisionally licensed
formulation.
5. If a provisionally licensed oil fails to pass the ROBO, the licensee must notify API immediately. The licensee
agrees to take whatever corrective action (including product recall) that is deemed necessary by API to
protect consumers or API in a time frame specified by API.
6. If a new oil formulation is not received by API by the end of the 6-month period, API will cancel the Provisional
License for that formulation.
7. Engine oils granted an API Provisional License will be listed in API’s Directory of Licensees without any
special designation. The licensee is still responsible for the satisfactory performance of all engine oils granted
an API Provisional License.

If you have questions, please contact EOLCS (EOLCS@api.org).

Sincerely,

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