



OEM BULLETIN

MERCEDES-BENZ BEAM QR-CODE

The Union of the European Lubricant Industry (UEIL) is the umbrella association of the European Lubricants Industry, representing their members and, in particular, the interests of SMEs and independent lubricant companies. To date, the UEIL represents more than 400 lubricant companies, who manufacture and distribute lubricant products (and coolants) under their own various trademarks throughout the European Union. With members in more than 20 European Countries and a unique collective experience of lubricants and the lubricants market, UEIL is the sole representative body for independent manufacturers of lubricants in Europe and has been recognised as such by the European Commission. It is UEIL's policy to favour free and fair competition within the scope of prevailing EU and national laws.

In June 2014 Mercedes-Benz issued an addition to "7. Obligations for Approvals for Operating Fluids" which stated "To ensure clear identification, the QR code with the MB-Approval must be affixed to all containers". The notification also stated "The altered contract will be valid with effect from August 1st 2014".

On 7th July 2014 UEIL wrote detailing its concerns and proposing a meeting to be held at which we would be joined by UNITI (German Trade Association). Mercedes-Benz replied on 14th July 2014 proposing a meeting in Stuttgart on 28th July 2014; which was accepted by UEIL and UNITI.

At the meeting UEIL were represented by 4 people whilst Mercedes-Benz were represented by 6 people led by Dr.-Ing. O Storz who is Senior Manager, Injection Systems & Operating Fluids, Mercedes-Benz Cars Developments.

We are pleased to announce that the introduction of the Mercedes-Benz QR will be on a voluntary basis for the time being. For all products already approved on the basis of the contract issued before the 1st of August, 2014 the approvals will remain valid and will not be revoked even if the QR code should not be applied yet. Nevertheless, the attachment of the QR code is highly recommended by Mercedes-Benz also for already approved products.

Mercedes-Benz has proposed that the implementation is started with new grades, labels etc. being introduced to avoid additional labelling costs. For existing grades the implementation might be part of the new CLP Labelling introduction.

Mercedes-Benz will be sending out a modified information sheet to clarify the fact that the originally announced date of 1st of August 2014 is the starting point for the voluntary QR code introduction, it is not a deadline.

Finally, both UEIL and UNITI generally support the voluntarily implementation of the QR code and would like to express their appreciation to Mercedes-Benz for their co-operation when reviewing this issue.

Brussels, V2 August 2014