



## OEM BULLETIN

### FORD

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 450 lubricant companies, who manufacture and distribute lubricant products under their own various trademarks throughout the European Union. With members in more than 22 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.

At the beginning of 2018, UEIL was informed by several members about Ford's recent communication to its network in Europe regarding its requirements for motor oil (warranty bulletin WB 23 / 2017).

In March 2018, we have drawn Ford Motor Company Ltd's attention to the fact that many Ford dealers seemed to have a problem of interpretation of the scope of the mandatory use of Ford/Castrol oils mentioned in this document.

For this reason, we have requested that Ford sends a new message to its network in order to remove any ambiguity about this issue. Despite several reminders, we have received no answer from the OEM.

Taking into account this unsatisfactory situation, it appears necessary to clarify the situation to the benefit of UEIL Members and Members of the Ford network and, for this purpose, to remind some key principles of the automotive aftermarket legal framework:

- 1° The European Commission only tolerates an obligation on an authorised repairer to use original spare parts (notably lubricants) supplied by the motor vehicle manufacturer (or by a specific supplier designated by the motor vehicle manufacturer) for repairs carried out under warranty, free servicing and motor vehicle recall work (when the manufacturer covers the cost). This tolerance does not apply outside this scope.
- 2° All Oils meeting the correct OEM technical specifications can be used for vehicle maintenance with no warranty exclusion.

Brussels, September 2018