



OEM BULLETIN

VW-AUDI

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 21 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.

It is key for UEIL and its members, which **defend a free market and a fair competition**, that motorists can:

- Have access to oil specifications in owners' manuals
- Choose between different competing products

Indeed, otherwise end users are deprived of choice and the market access for competing products is blocked.

In May and June 2021, we informed you about **two successful cases against SKODA and SEAT**, which had decided to remove engine oil specifications in their owners' manuals¹ and to invite motorists to contact a specialist garage to get their oil changed.

After UEIL and UNITI actions and finally the intervention of the Centre for Protection against Unfair Competition in Germany (Wettbewerbszentrale), the two OEMs committed to mention again oil specifications relating to their owners' manuals and to remove the reference to a specialist garage by 2 August 2021.

VW and AUDI, which have repeated the same type of conduct, have recently voluntarily contacted Wettbewerbszentrale, before any action has been taken against them, and have committed to mention again oil specifications relating to their owners' manuals by the beginning of next year. **Another very positive result for our industry and for consumers.**

UEIL thanks UNITI and the Centre for Protection against Unfair Competition for their involvement in these cases and invites its members to monitor the full implementation of the above commitments on the ground.

Brussels, December 2021

¹ See previous OEM Bulletins regarding SKODA and SEAT