



## OEM BULLETIN

### **LIEBHERR HYDRAULIC FLUIDS BOSCH REXROTH RFT-APU-CL**

The Independent Union of the European Lubricant Industry (UEIL) is the umbrella association of the Independent 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 recognized as such by the European Commission. It is UEIL's policy to favor free and fair competition within the scope of prevailing EU and national laws.

In November 2011 UEIL contacted Liebherr seeking clarification concerning their hydraulic fluid requirements. Their initial position was that "there are no internationally recognized specifications for hydraulic oils that specify more than the basic standard which is not sufficient for the description of the relevant characteristics and additives required by our machines."

However in April 2012 the OEM advised "the use of hydraulic fluids which meet certain requirements like e.g. the specification HVLDP according to DIN 51524 part 3 and the Bosch Rexroth RFT-APU-CL test does not influence the warranty for defects, provided that the used lubricants are not the source of the respective defect or failure of the machine".

Unfortunately members of UEIL have not been able to obtain a formulation from any of the Additive Companies as the Bosch Rexroth specification has not yet been defined and issued to the industry!

UEIL have now been advised that "the requirements of Liebherr will increase with the published standards by Bosch. Until the Premium Level list is published by Bosch the use of hydraulic fluids which meet the Basic Level and in addition the specification HVLDP according DIN 51524 part 3 is enough. If the Basic level is not available the minimum standard of DIN 51524 has to be fulfilled".

UEIL have also now been advised that "Due to the different requirements for the various categories of oil, the procedure can only be executed step-by-step. As a first step the procedure will be open for mineral oils. Based on the information available now, Bosch Rexroth plans to publish the first Basic Level List for registered and tested mineral oils earliest in the middle of 2013 and the Premium Level List, as a consequence of the necessary scope of testing, cannot be provided before the first quarter of 2014. Other categories of oil and other means of assessments will follow later on".

Bosch Rexroth has also advised that their current specification RE 90220-01 "Hydraulic fluids on a mineral basis for axial piston units" is no longer valid.

*Brussels April 2013*