Filter Cross Referencing and Interchangeability

There are numerous ways to determine which filter is correct for an application. Most of these are accurate and helpful. Some however, are inaccurate and outdated. The use of the incorrect filter could prove extremely detrimental to the performance and overall life of the system it is installed on. The following will be helpful in assuring the correct filter is placed in service on the system it is designed for.

The first source of accurate, up-to-date filter information is the application section of the filter manufacturer's current catalog. This publication is normally updated and published annually. Some filter manufacturers offer market specific of specialty catalogs that provide application and interchange information targeted at a particular market segment. Some examples of these are the marine and agricultural industries. Catalogs not only provide application information but also technical product information and competitive part number information. Because catalogs contain such a volume of information, always be sure you are using the most current catalog available. Never use an old, outdated catalog as performance and application requirements and interchange information is constantly being reviewed and updated.

Another popular method for determining what filter goes on a particular application or system is interchanging filter manufacturer's part numbers. While this practice is quite common and virtually all filter manufacturers provide competitive part number information, the practice of simply interchanging a part number and not checking the exact application is based on a crucial assumption. This assumption is: the filter currently in service on an application is the correct one. As this is not always the case, the consequences on interchanging an incorrectly applied filter can be catastrophic contributing to or resulting in poor system performance, system damage and/or complete system failure. Interchanging filter part numbers is strictly for reference purposes only. The filter manufacturer's current application catalog should always be consulted to insure the correct filter is used for the application involved and corresponds to the original equipment manufacturer's part number.

Other sources for determining filter application information include manufacturer's technical lines, fleet surveys, matching physical dimensions, thread sizes, gasket dimensions, unsubstantiated personal knowledge, etc. Of all these, filter manufacturer's technical service lines and current fleet surveys completed by a filtration expert would be considered the most accurate and

helpful. Due to today's precise design, construction and component performance requirements, the use of the other sources mentioned to determine a filter application will probably result in filter failure, performance complaints and/or system failure and down time.

Today, filtration product manufacturers supply a vast array of filters specifically designed for an application. The complete protection of systems by filtration is more critical than ever. Consequently, the selection of the correct filter for a specific application is essential. If there is ever any doubt as to which filter to use, don't guess! ASK! Contact the filter manufacturer, their field representative or their authorized distributor for the help needed.

For additional information, contact:

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