



## Technical Data

### Introduction

The ability of Eaton hydraulic components to provide the desired performance and life expectancy depends largely on the fluid used. The purpose of this document is to provide readers with the knowledge required to select the appropriate fluids for use in systems that employ Eaton hydraulic components.

One of the most important characteristic to consider when choosing a fluid to be used in a hydraulic system is **viscosity**. Viscosity choice is always a compromise; the fluid must be thin enough to flow easily but thick enough to seal and maintain a lubricating film between bearing and sealing surfaces. Viscosity requirements for each of Eaton's product lines are given on the back of this document.

### Viscosity and Temperature

Fluid temperature affects viscosity. In general, as the fluid warms it gets thinner and its viscosity decreases. The opposite is true when fluid cools. When choosing a fluid, it is important to consider the start-up and operating temperatures of the hydraulic system. Generally, the fluid is thick when the hydraulic system is started. With movement, the fluid warms to a point where a cooling system begins to operate. From then on, the fluid is maintained at the temperature for which the hydraulic system was designed. In actual applications this sequence varies; hydraulic systems are used in many environments from very cold to very hot. Cooling systems also vary from very elaborate to very simple, so ambient temperature may affect operating temperature. Equipment manufacturers who use Eaton hydraulic components in their products should anticipate temperature in their designs and make the appropriate fluid recommendations to their customers.

### Cleanliness

Cleanliness of the fluid in a hydraulic system is extremely important. Eaton recommends that the fluid used in its hydraulic components be maintained at ISO Cleanliness Code 18/13 per SAE J1165. This code allows a maximum of 2500 particles per milliliter greater than 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and a maximum of 80 particles per milliliter greater than 15  $\mu\text{m}$ . When components with different cleanliness requirements are used in the same system, the cleanliest standard should be applied. OEM's and distributors who use Eaton hydraulic components in their products should provide for these requirements in their designs. A reputable filter supplier can supply filter information.

### Fluid Maintenance

Maintaining correct fluid viscosity and cleanliness level is essential for all hydraulic systems. Since Eaton hydraulic components are used in a wide variety of applications it is impossible for Eaton to publish a fluid maintenance schedule that would cover every situation. Field testing and monitoring are the only ways to get accurate measurements of system cleanliness. OEM's and distributors who use Eaton hydraulic components should test and establish fluid maintenance schedules for their products. These maintenance schedules should be designed to meet the viscosity and cleanliness requirements laid out in this document.

### Fluid Selection

Premium grade petroleum based hydraulic fluids will provide the best performance in Eaton hydraulic components. These fluids typically contain additives that are beneficial to hydraulic systems. Eaton recommends fluids that contain anti-wear agents, rust inhibitors, anti-foaming agents, and oxidation inhibitors. Premium grade petroleum based hydraulic fluids carry an ISO VG rating.

SAE grade crankcase oils may be used in systems that employ Eaton hydraulic components, but it should be noted that these oils may not contain all of the recommended additives. This means using crankcase oils may increase fluid maintenance requirements.

Hydraulic fluids that contain V.I. (viscosity index) improvers, sometimes called multi-viscosity oils, may be used in systems that employ Eaton hydraulic components. These V.I. improved fluids are known to "shear-down" with use. This means that their actual viscosity drops below the rated value. Fluid maintenance must be increased if V.I. improved fluids are used. Automotive automatic transmission fluids contain V.I. improvers.

Synthetic fluids may be used in Eaton hydraulic components. A reputable fluid supplier can provide information on synthetic fluids. Review applications that require the use of synthetic fluids with your Eaton representative.

Product Line	ISO			ISO Cleanliness Requirements	Comments
	Minimum	Optimum Range	Maximum		
Heavy Duty Piston Pumps and Motors	60 SUS [10 cSt]	80 - 180 SUS [16 - 39 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	
Medium Duty Piston Pumps and Motors Charged Systems	45 SUS [6 cSt]	60 - 180 SUS [10 - 39 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	
Medium Duty Piston Pumps and Motors Non-charged Systems	45 SUS [6 cSt]	60 - 180 SUS [10 - 39 cSt]	2,000 SUS [432 cSt]	18/13	
Light Duty Transaxles, Transmissions, Pumps and Series 1150 Transaxles	60 SUS [10 cSt]	80 - 180 SUS [16 - 39 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	Automotive multi-viscosity oils and ATF are not recommended
Series 2030 Motor Axles	70 SUS [13 cSt]	100 - 200 SUS [20 - 43 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	Automotive multi-viscosity oils and ATF are not recommended
Char-Lynn J, R, and S Series Motors, and Disc Valve Motors	70 SUS [13 cSt]	100 - 200 SUS [20 - 43 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	
Char-Lynn A Series and H Series Motors	100 SUS [20 cSt]	100 - 200 SUS [20 - 43 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	
Char-Lynn Steering Control Units, Priority and Control Valves	55 SUS [9 cSt]	100 - 200 SUS [20 - 43 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	When emergency manual steering is required, maximum viscosity is 2,000 SUS [450 cSt]
Gear Pumps and Motors, and Cylinders	45 SUS [6 cSt]	60 - 200 SUS [10 - 43 cSt]	10,000 SUS [2158 cSt]	18/13	

**Additional Notes:**

- Fluids too thick to flow in cold weather start-ups will cause pump cavitation and possible damage. Motor cavitation is not a problem during cold start-ups, except for two speed motors. Thick oil can cause high case pressures which in turn can blow motor shaft seals.
- When choosing a hydraulic fluid, all the components in the system must be considered and the optimum viscosity range adjusted accordingly. For example, when a medium duty piston pump is combined with a Geroler motor the optimum viscosity range becomes 100 - 150 SUS [20 - 32 cSt] and viscosity should never fall below 70 SUS [13 cSt].

- If the natural color of the fluid has become black it is possible that an overheating problem exists.
- If the fluid becomes milky, water contamination may be a problem.
- Take fluid level reading when the system is cold.
- Contact your Eaton representative if you have specific questions about the fluid requirements of Eaton hydraulic components.

**Eaton**  
Fluid Power Group  
Hydraulics Business USA  
14615 Lone Oak Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
USA  
Tel: 952-937-9800  
Fax: 952-294-7722  
[www.eaton.com/hydraulics](http://www.eaton.com/hydraulics)

**Eaton**  
Fluid Power Group  
Hydraulics Business Europe  
Route de la Longeraie 7  
1110 Morges  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 (0) 21 811 4600  
Fax: +41 (0) 21 811 4601

**Eaton**  
Fluid Power Group  
Hydraulics Business Asia Pacific  
11th Floor Hong Kong New World Tower  
300 Huaihai Zhong Road  
Shanghai 200021  
China  
Tel: 86-21-6387-9988  
Fax: 86-21-6335-3912