

Which engine oil should I use in my Common Rail Diesel engine?

Modern, high performance diesel engines produce a lot of power in a relatively small space. These engines rely on their monitoring and control systems to develop this power safely and effectively for thousands of demanding operating hours.

One part of the support system for these engines is the engine oil. It is used to lubricate, cool and clean the engine internally while the engine meets power demand from the operator.

For Common Rail engines MAN has specified the use of oil conforming to MAN factory standard 3277. The only oil available in the United States meeting this specification is a fully synthetic engine oil made by **Mobil** Oil company named **Delvac1 5W-40 for heavy duty diesel engines**.

But MAN also recognizes that this specific oil may not be available in every part of the country. In those cases MAN has authorized the use of oils conforming to certain oil industry specifications and the oil container must carry the designation **API-CF 4, CG 4 CH-4, CI-4**. The brand name is not important once the specification is met.

So, if a vessel owner has the choice which oil should he use?

The fully synthetic engine oil will be more expensive than the lesser quality mineral oil but it offers a variety of benefits which definitely make its use preferable. The engine will run cooler internally with synthetic oil. There will be less deposits throughout the engine and specifically in the breather system with synthetic oil and MAN has extended the oil change intervals to 400 hours (or once a year) when using this high quality lubricant.

When a boat owner chooses to use mineral oil in these engines the oil change intervals must be kept at 200 Hours and the breather filter needs to be replaced as required, at least at every oil change.

If you have any questions regarding the availability of synthetic engine oil please check with the Mobil oil web site or call us at RDI Marine (206) 286-1230.

So, what oil should you use? As you can hopefully tell:

MAN and RDI Marine prefer synthetic engine oil