

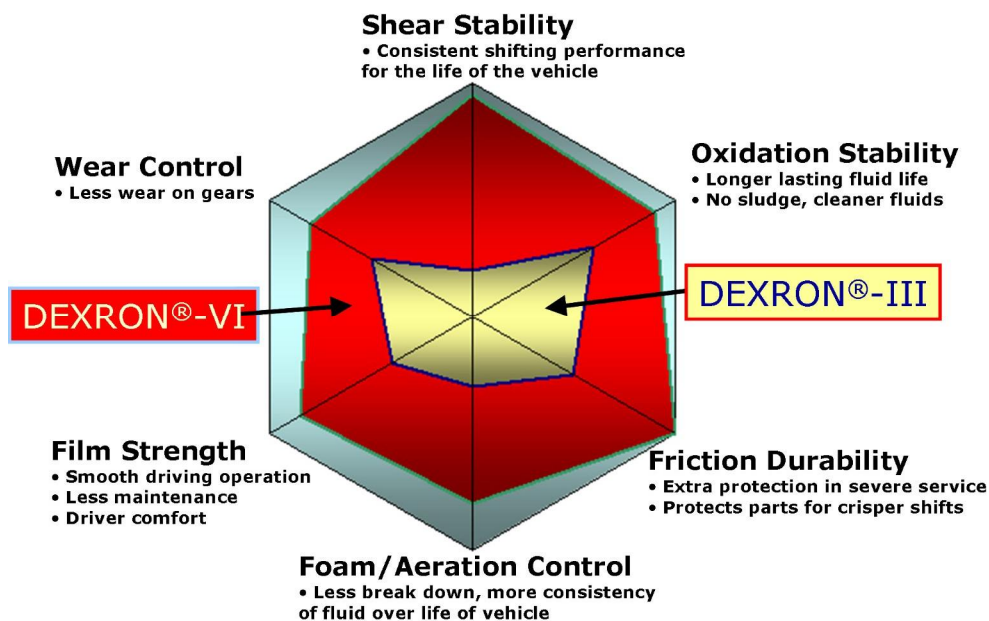
ATF DX-VI AVAILABLE

Keen-eyed readers will have picked up a new product in the "Guide to Oils and Greases" called ATF DX-VI. This is the new General Motors DEXRON®-VI specification (GMN 10060) which was developed for the new 6 speed GM automatic gearboxes used in the USA and which will be in Australian made Holden's before too long. GM will be making DEXRON®-III obsolete at the end of 2006 and no new licenses are being issued.

According to GM, it can be used for all GM automatic gearboxes that used to use DEXRON®-IIE and III fluids. In our case that would mean all 4 and 5 speed Holden Commodores (and derivatives) back to and including the VN Commodore, but not the VL (which is a Nissan box). As it is designed for GM Hydramatic gearboxes, automatic transmissions found in the European and Japanese (and Korean!) sourced vehicles are NOT included. As such, cars like Apollo, Astra, Barina, Cruze, Frontera, Jackaroo, Nova, Rodeo, Vectra, Viva and Zafira stay with the current recommended fluids. Commodore (and Toyota Lexcen), Statesman, Suburban, GMC and other GM US imported vehicles can use DEXRON®-VI quite happily.

So what has changed?

The most "visible" change is the oil's viscosity. It is only 6cSt at 100°C, which is a lot lighter than the 7.0-8.0cSt we are used to. Of interest though, after shear results show it is better than the old DEXRON®-IIE and III fluids.



However, the above chart shows many improvements for "VI" over "IIIH" such as wear protection, film strength, foam control, durability, shear stability and oxidation stability. It is really designed as a "fill for life" type product. That oil drain capability is 400,000km, which is longer than many vehicles ever last for.

That aside, Penrite have still gone ahead to release this product for the "older" vehicles plus any repair/top up requirements that may eventuate. As always, it is a fully licensed grade, with our Approval Number J-60302 being one of the first in the world. Most other manufacturers have not yet accepted the product. We believe though, that they will and that the end uses for this product will widen over time.