



VINTAGE VETERAN AND CLASSIC TECH NOTE

Number V-1

Penrite Philosophy on Engine Oil Viscosity & Performance Levels for Veteran, Edwardian, Vintage and Classic Cars & Motorcycles.

A typical engine oil viscosity classification for modern vehicles is 10W-40. Such a classification has little or no significance when we consider oils for the above types of vehicles.

The "W" rating in our example of a 10W-40 defines the viscosity at ultra low temperatures, and for 10W, the operative temperature is right down at -25°C . Whilst modern cars have to be useable at sub zero temperatures, not many owners of older type vehicles such as those mentioned will be venturing forth.

The "40" part of our 10W-40 defines the viscosity of the oil at 100°C . This temperature will be experienced in modern vehicles, but never in the older type vehicle.

The exception to this statement would be the historic rally car where long distances at high speed will be experienced, resulting in high oil temperatures.

Historic racing these days is primarily five lap events and high oil temperatures are not experienced.

It is Penrite's belief that for this reason to formulate an engine oil using parameters, which do not represent the actual operating conditions to which the oil will be subjected, is totally unrealistic, and may even be dangerous to the machinery.

The important range is from $10-60^{\circ}\text{C}$.

