

ABB alliance offers Wearthcheck customers holistic condition monitoring

WEARCHECK and ABB's service operation have entered into a strategic alliance to offer a complete condition monitoring service for industrial equipment incorporating vibration analysis, thermography and oil analysis.

Industrial customers may also select one or two of the three options above, as well as a second, more extensive oil analysis service. This includes wear particle examination on every sample together with an image of the particles observed microscopically; and a Total Acid Number determination on samples to detect any oxidation of the oil. A breakdown of the two oil analysis services is shown in the table on Page 4.

'The ABB alliance was a natural development, because oil analysis on stationary equipment is often used as a complementary condition monitoring tool to thermography and vibration analysis,' said Set Point divisional director of Wearthcheck, Gary Brown.

'Having the results of all three condition monitoring tests available simultaneously will provide maximum information



Gary Brown, Set Point divisional director of Wearthcheck (right), and Toni de Sousa of ABB's service operation, cement the new strategic alliance between the two companies to offer a comprehensive condition monitoring service to industry.

for technicians to evaluate a component's health timeously,' said Toni de Sousa, who is responsible for service at ABB, a leading maintenance service provider to industry. 'This streamlines the process, increasing its effectiveness in helping to avoid costly breakdowns, loss of production and unnecessary maintenance costs.'

All industrial oil analysis options will be available through Wearthcheck, but under the banner of ABB. There will be no change to the existing Wearthcheck Industrial oil analysis profile, its price or the reporting formats. The only change

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Wearthcheck helps test Sasol's new Dual Fuel

OIL analysis was one of the tests used by Sasol Oil whilst developing their new Formula 100 Dual Fuel launched on the Highveld in March - the only petrol in South Africa guaranteed as suitable for use in all petrol engined vehicles, from the oldest vintage car to the most technologically advanced models.

According to Raoul

Goosen, Sasol Oil technical services manager, Wearthcheck's oil analysis programme was used during the testing of the fuel in a fleet of new and used cars. The extensive test programme was carried out over more than a year and included 600 vehicles.

'Oil analysis enabled Sasol to verify low engine wear rates and clean burning characteristics, and to examine the

level of fuel derived contaminants in the oil,' he said.

He added that this process would not stop now that Dual Fuel was on the market, as Sasol monitored and supported actual market performance by motorists and made use of Wearthcheck in this process.

'We aim to continue to use Wearthcheck as an integral part of fuel and lubricant trials and product development as we

have done for the past ten years,' he said.

Wearthcheck was mentioned in a TV documentary broadcast before the Malaysian Grand Prix in March as having played a role in the research and development of the new fuel which can be used in both leaded and unleaded petrol engines. ✓

Technical manager investigates new technologies in UK and USA

WEARCHECK technical manager, Alistair Geach is visiting the USA and UK during June and July to attend the annual Wearthcheck International meeting and Condition Monitoring Conference 2001, as well as to visit a number of equipment suppliers to investigate interesting new equipment and technologies.

'The WCI meeting, to be held this year in Carey, North Carolina, will again present opportunities for in-depth discussions with colleagues on advances in the industry and collaboration opportunities,' Alistair said prior to his trip.

'Over the years this association has resulted in the development of new systems through shared technology, the standardisation of analysis practices to global standards, and shared staff development strategies. This year's meeting will focus on plans for the nine WCI member companies to capitalise on the increasing globalisation of world markets.'

The Condition Monitoring Conference 2001 held in Oxford, UK at the end of June is recognised as one of the leading conferences in Europe which attracts experts in the field from all over the world, providing an excellent opportunity for Wearthcheck to keep up to date with international trends in the industry.

Among the equipment suppliers Alistair will be visiting is Perkin Elmer near London, with a view to purchasing a second infrared spectrometer to enable the Pinetown laboratory to extend its infrared analysis service to non-engine samples.

He will also view new particle counting technology at Spectro International in Massachusetts. This presents an alternative to the traditional light blocking technology currently being used in South African laboratories.

Says Alistair, 'There are several other interesting new prospects I will be exploring for Wearthcheck which, if

they prove to be feasible, we will develop further.

'We have always prided ourselves on being at the cutting edge of technology, employing state-of-the-art equipment and innovative systems, many of which we have developed in-house. Because new technologies employed have translated into greater productivity internally, we have consistently managed to achieve this without abnormal price increases. This overseas trip is very much part of the process.'

A report back on Alistair's trip will be featured in the next issue of Wearthcheck Monitor. ✓

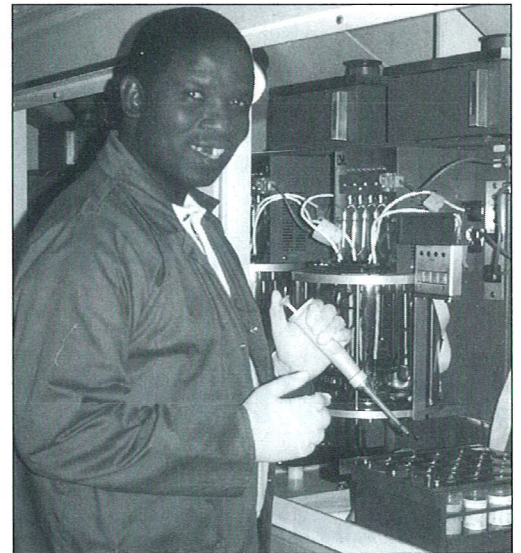
LUBE TIPS

IT IS essential that careful consideration be given to setting up reliable and adequate storage and handling procedures for lubricating oil and greases.

Outdoor storage should be avoided if at all possible because:

- ◆ Weathering can obliterate labels or stencils on containers, leading to possible mistakes in selection.
- ◆ Widely varying outdoor temperatures, with consequent expansion and contraction of seams and seals on containers, may lead to leakage and waste.
- ◆ The likelihood of contamination is increased.
- ◆ Water can leak into even tightly closed drums.
- ◆ Extremely cold or hot weather can also change the composition of some lubricants, making them useless. ✓

- Courtesy of Noria Corporation



Assistant trainer Isaac Mabaso finds a thorough knowledge of laboratory procedures of value when instructing customers' employees how to take good quality samples.

On-site training helps improve sample quality

WEARCHECK recently appointed a training assistant, Isaac Mabaso, to carry out on-site training for customers to help their staff take good quality samples.

Says Gary Brown, Set Point divisional director of Wearthcheck, 'Maintenance managers are becoming more aware of the benefits of good sampling techniques. A badly taken sample wastes time and money, whereas a properly taken sample makes the oil analysis programme that much more effective. This course gives staff the knowledge, the skills and the confidence to take samples correctly. It makes them appreciate that they have an important role to play in the maintenance programme.'

The practical half-day course covers:

- ◆ Sampling techniques
- ◆ The basics of oil analysis
- ◆ Why we analyse oils
- ◆ Completion of sample submission forms
- ◆ The importance of sub-form information
- ◆ How to read a sample report
- ◆ The meaning of severity levels: Normal, Borderline, Urgent, Critical.

During the course, Isaac demonstrates how to take an oil sample using the various sampling methods on automotive equipment. A practical evaluation then follows where each candidate is given the opportunity to take an oil sample and ask questions. On completion of the course, candidates receive a certificate. ✓

Making Headway

FAREWELL **TO** **GARY BLEVINS**

MANY customers were sorry to say goodbye to Gary Blevins who left Wearcheck in April after 10 years of service, to broaden his experience in Saudi Arabia.

'We shall miss Gary but wish him the best of luck in his new career abroad,' says Lesley Crawford, Set Point divisional director of Wearcheck.

'At the same time, we have great pleasure in announcing the appointment of Wade de Chalain, as Wearcheck's new technical and customer support consultant. Wade has had extensive experience in the engineering and automotive industries and we know he will be of immense value to our customers.' ✓

A new approach to technical support

SINCE starting at Wearcheck in Johannesburg in June, Wade de Chalain is determined to see as many Wearcheck customers as possible in the coming months.

'I am looking forward to getting to know our customers so that I can sustain and develop the working relationships that Gary Blevins built up over the years,' Wade said.

Wade has a comprehensive knowledge of the automotive industry. After attaining his N3 in both aircraft mechanics and petrol and diesel maintenance, he completed his army service and started a 12-year career in automotive maintenance. He progressed from diesel mechanic and fitter, working

for a number of different companies, to the position of workshop and yard manager for Truck Parts Centre at Jet Park, acquiring advanced on-floor skills and a sound grounding in technical management.

'I have always had a keen interest in lubrication and have been a customer of Wearcheck from time to time so have a good understanding of the applications and benefits of oil analysis,' Wade said.

Wade has also found time to become a scuba diving instructor and enjoys leisure diving whenever he gets the opportunity. ✓



Wade de Chalain, Wearcheck's new technical and customer support consultant.

DRIVING QUALITY

MELANIE Hynd, who is well known to many Wearcheck customers through her work in customer services and co-ordinating bookings for training courses over the years, has taken up the new position of quality administrator.

Her main task will be to update in-house quality procedures to comply with the new ISO9001:2000 standards and to rewrite the company's quality manual.

Says Melanie, 'The new code requires far more management involvement and places more emphasis on continuous improvement. There is also a strong focus on customer input which will probably require regular research to



Melanie Hynd, quality administrator.

gain feedback from customers.'

Acknowledging that this is a complex and time-consuming project, Melanie is tackling the challenge with the same enthusiasm she has applied to the many different responsibilities she has assumed for Wearcheck over the past 11 years. ✓

NetCheck support expands

AS THE number of NetCheck customers grows, Wearcheck has appointed a third person to the team which offers software support and helps customers gain maximum advantage from this convenient email-based system.

Recently appointed NetCheck software support assistant, Prinda Narasi, joins senior systems administrator Lorain de Bruin in Pinetown while Devi Armugam operates from the Johannesburg office.

Prinda started as a lab assistant with Wearcheck in 1988. After ten years, she moved to the data processing section for eighteen months before assuming her current position. She holds a three-year diploma in information technology.



Prinda Narasi, NetCheck software support assistant.

She thoroughly enjoys the constant liaison with customers, saying, 'It is very rewarding to be able to help people through their problems and equip them with the knowledge to make their jobs easier.' ✓

ABB alliance will benefit Wearthcheck customers

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will be that reports will feature the ABB logo in place of the Wearthcheck logo.

Wearthcheck will continue to carry out all analysis of oil samples. Diagnosis of these Industrial results will be carried out by Ashley Mayer, a former Wearthcheck diagnostician who is now employed by ABB, but works from Wearthcheck's Pinetown laboratory.

Oil sampling and the collection of vibration and thermal imaging data will be carried out on site by trained ABB technicians and all results will be submitted to customers electronically by Wearthcheck, including wear particle images.

Special mailing and courier kits are available for the new service from Wearthcheck as well as turbine/compressor kits, all with ABB prefixes.

'We believe this will be of great benefit to ABB and Wearthcheck customers with industrial plant because it offers a convenient one-stop shop for condition monitoring with all results linked and diagnosed holistically,' said Gary Brown. ✓

	ABB 1	ABB 2
Spectrometric analysis	✓	✓
Viscosity @ 40°C	✓	✓
PQI	✓	✓
TAN	-	✓
MPE	-	✓
Wear Particle Image (on Netcheck)	-	✓

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Wearthcheck Training Courses July - October 2001

Date	Course	Venue
16 July	2	Johannesburg
16-17 July	NetCheck	Johannesburg
18 July	4	Johannesburg
13 August	2	Johannesburg
14 August	3	Johannesburg
17 September	2	Pinetown
17/18 September	NetCheck	Pinetown
19/20 September	4	Pinetown
15 October	2	Johannesburg
15/16 October	NetCheck	Johannesburg
17 October	4	Johannesburg

Course 1:

A practical introduction to oil analysis. Half-day by arrangement on site.

Cost varies.

Course 2:

The application of oil analysis and an introduction to troubleshooting. 08h30 - 16h00.

Cost: R650.

Course 3:

Troubleshooting made easy. 08h30 - 16h00.

Cost: R650.

Course 4:

The management and integration of your oil analysis programme. 08h30 - 16h00.

Cost: R985.

NetCheck

08h30 - 16h00 on both days.

Cost: R 1 325.

All prices exclude VAT



Cathy Bolton

Contact Cathy for training bookings

JOHANNESBURG branch co-ordinator, Cathy Bolton, has taken over the job of co-ordinating and accepting bookings for all of Wearthcheck's training courses from Melanie Hynd. Cathy can be reached on:

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(011) 392-6322 or

e-mail:

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