



SEASON'S GREETINGS • As the year draws to a close and we reflect on our achievements over the past months, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. In this spirit we offer you, our customers, our sincere thanks and good wishes for a peaceful festive season and a prosperous New Year.



LLOYDS REGISTER RENEWS WEARCHECK'S MARINE CERTIFICATION

UK-based Lloyds Register has renewed Wearthcheck's certification, enabling the company to continue undertaking lubricating analysis for all ships registered with Lloyds. Wearthcheck first became an approved supplier to Lloyds Register in February 2000.

Wearthcheck is also certified for marine testing by Paris-based Bureau Veritas, an organisation which frequently requires an oil analysis service during hull and machinery testing on board ships in Durban harbour. ✓



Wearthcheck supports Arbour Week

Managing director Lesley Crawford (holding spade) admires one of the five red currant trees donated by Wearthcheck to nearby Ashley Primary School during Arbour Week in September. She is flanked by school principal Rod Kok, Cheryl Hofert, the teacher in charge of the school's outdoor club, Melanie Hynd (back, far right) and some of the learners. The children have named one of the trees 'Lesley' as a token of their appreciation. The tree planting was an example of Wearthcheck's commitment to caring for the environment as the company works towards being the first oil analysis company in Africa to achieve ISO 14001 quality registration for its environmental management system.

STAFF ARE IN DEMAND AS SPEAKERS

Wearthcheck's John Evans and Jan Backer are regularly asked to give presentations on oil analysis to a variety of different audiences.

John, diagnostic manager: mobile equipment, was once again the speaker on this subject at the annual five day Lubrication Engineering Conference organised by the SA Institute of Tribology in Durban in June.

Training specialist, Jan, spoke at a three-day Condition Monitoring Symposium in Johannesburg in August on the management of an oil analysis programme with emphasis on clean oils. He also gave a presentation at the University of Pretoria during September.





Peter Ronald, Julie May and Rian Ferreira of Fourways Haulage in Elandsfontein are convinced of the benefits of Wearcheck's oil analysis programme.

WEARCHECK IS "WORTH EVERY CENT"

"The moderate monthly cost of the Wearcheck programme is worth every cent invested because it gives us peace of mind and knowledge of what is happening with each component in our fleet."

These are the words of Peter Ronald, workshop manager for Fourways Haulage SA, an international haulage company based in Elandsfontein which undertakes cross-border work into Zambia, Botswana, the DRC, Mocambique and Malawi.

Fourways Haulage is the vehicle maintenance and operational arm of a group of companies in the Imperial fold. Its main function is to service sister company Professional Consolidators which specialises in specific industry sectors such as steel and food.

Fourways Haulage owns and operates 150 of its own trucks - a dedicated fleet of International Harvesters powered by Cummins motors - and services an additional 120 units for Colbro Transport, a company with roots in Zimbabwe. The trucks are complemented by a fleet of light diesel bakkies. All in all, 165 units are on the Wearcheck programme.

Says Mr Ronald, "We have a policy of purchasing quality pre-owned trucks - with models ranging from 1994 to 1998 - and are confident of their future performance due to the high levels of maintenance we apply."

All vehicles are serviced at 15 000 km intervals. Due to the remote destinations of the fleet, all components are sampled at each service to prevent any breakdowns or failures en route. Vehicles are serviced on a seven day a week basis and a team of service support staff contribute to the smooth running of the operation.

The trucks leave the workshop immediately after being serviced and, if any samples are found to be critical, the truck can be tracked and remedial action taken. Fourways' service advisor, Rian Ferreira, co-ordinates the flow of reportable results and makes sure that any action recommended in the Wearcheck reports is actioned and signed off.

Julie May, who administers the sampling programme as part of her portfolio, receives all data electronically via NetCheck and immediately reports the findings to the service advisor and fleet manager, who advise service technicians on the appropriate action to be taken.

Says workshop manager Peter Ronald, "We have saved many components in the four years we have been using Wearcheck and are in the process of developing a system to monitor potential savings and overall programme benefits. We do know that simply by reacting to any abnormal findings on the Wearcheck reports we are benefiting because, without the sampling programme, we would have been unaware of these problems."



New depot in Mokopane

Wearcheck has opened a depot in Mokopane (formerly Potgietersrus) where customers can drop off samples and buy sample kits.

This is an arrangement with sister company Set Point Laboratories, which has operated a sample preparation lab in the Northern province town for some time, where they process rock samples before sending them to their Johannesburg laboratory.

Wearcheck oil samples will leave the Mokopane depot twice a week at no extra cost to customers.

The address is:
Set Point Laboratories (the office also displays a Wearcheck sign)
44 Simmentaler Street, Mokopane
Tel: (015) 491-2314

Urgent samples should be sent to the Pinetown lab by courier.



SPECIAL OFFER ON IMPORTED SAMPLE PUMPS

Wearcheck is offering their heavy duty sample extraction pumps for engines and gearboxes at a reduced price of R380 plus VAT including the rinse bottle and tubing. These imported pumps normally sell at R580 but new stocks have just arrived and Wearcheck is passing on the benefits of the current exchange rate to customers. Good quality pumps are vital for taking a repeatable sample.

PRODUCT CODES:	Heavy Duty Sample Pumps	
	Engine:	WISPE
	Gearbox:	WISPG

Diagnostician's conference achieves results

Wearcheck's first in-house diagnostician's conference in September achieved its objective of exposing staff to new equipment, designs and trends from industry specialists. It also succeeded in creating a valuable forum for field personnel to provide feedback from their visits to customers and on market conditions.

The guest speaker at the conference was Deon Wessels of ZF Transmissions who gave an informative presentation on transmissions supplemented by input from Wearcheck staff members.

Says technical manager, Neil Robinson, "We plan to invite an industry expert - usually a component manufacturer or fleet operator - each time to help us keep abreast of the latest technological developments. It is also a good opportunity to resolve any problems that are being experienced with diagnoses and to discuss how to accommodate any suggestions from customers."

Jan Backer and Wade de Chalain of Wearcheck's Johannesburg office attended the meeting along with Wearcheck's seven Pinetown diagnosticians.



HELP US... to help you

Wearcheck has introduced Corrective Action Reports (CARs) for ALL customer complaints in the interests of improving quality. We ask that customers request a CAR number as a reference should they wish to make a complaint and, if they receive no response, that they contact Melanie Hynd in the Pinetown office (melanie@wearcheck.co.za). Thank you for helping us to help you!

NOVEMBER IS QUALITY MONTH

Wearcheck sailed through its six-monthly SABS audit for ISO 9001:2000 certification in September with no findings in either the Johannesburg or Pinetown offices.

As part of the company's quality and environmental awareness month in November, quality administrator Melanie Hynd will be organising her annual quiz with prizes, as well as sending out daily emails to staff featuring inspiring quotations like these:

"If a man is called to be a streetsweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great streetsweeper who did his job well."

- Martin Luther King Junior

"I never had a policy; I have just tried to do my very best each and every day."

- Abraham Lincoln

"To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival."

- Wendell Berry

LUBE TIP

Over time, additives are depleted performing the function for which they were intended, degraded by hydrolysis, mechanical shearing, condensation settling, water washing, particle scrubbing, etc.

The rate of depletion or degradation depends upon the application and the environment. In particular, heat, pressure, shear rate, fuel sulfur, soot, dirt, water, aeration and the presence of catalytic metals (copper, iron, etc.) affect the rate of depletion.

Regarding replenishment - whenever you top-up a system, you are replenishing additives. Likewise, one can perform a partial drain and replacement (often referred to as bleed and feed). A bleed and feed can work if the base oil is not degraded. If the base oil has been degraded, adding new oil is analogous to sending a healthy person into a room full of sick people with the hope that his or her good health will be contagious - it doesn't work that way. The additives in the new oil might be compromised within the first hours of use, leaving you right back where you started.

Casual addition of additives into a formulated oil can be dangerous and should be avoided. When in doubt consult your lubricant supplier.

- Courtesy of Noria Corporation

New diagnostician joins the team

New diagnostician, Quinton Verster came to Wearcheck with a wealth of experience in the maintenance of earthmoving equipment - he spent 16 years with the KZN Department of Transport in Durban, Greytown and Ladysmith.

Starting as an apprentice in 1987, he worked his way up to manager of the department's Ladysmith workshop where he was responsible for a team of 17 employees undertaking preventive maintenance for 120 units of construction plant and equipment, 22 ambulances and a variety of vehicles and buses. He holds a National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

Having worked with the Wearcheck programme extensively while with the Department of Transport, Quinton is at home with oil analysis and fully convinced of its benefits.

"I find it hard to believe that not all OEM's use oil analysis or that they do not take full advantage of it and so miss out on the enormous benefits they could be achieving for themselves and their customers. I know that oil analysis has saved the KZN Department of Transport millions of rands over the years."

"Customers often do not sample during the first 1000 hours as the machines are covered by warranty during this period. Oil sampling history is crucial from day one. Some faults may develop slowly from the outset but only result in actual failure when the warranty has expired. Without that original history, these developing problems may go undetected."



New diagnostician, Quinton Verster

Born and bred in Greytown, Quinton loves all forms of motor sports. He was an active part of the local rally driving scene and liked nothing more than getting his hands dirty as a member of the pit crew at the town's oval racing track. He still spends many hours restoring old cars and doing V8 conversions. He also plays golf and is an avid supporter of Formula 1 racing and the Natal Sharks.

CUSTOMISED ON-SITE TRAINING IS THE ANSWER

Organising training to suit your needs at your own premises is a flexible, cost-effective way of ensuring that your staff make oil analysis work for you.

So says Wearcheck training specialist Jan Backer who has conducted on-site courses for individual customers in Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Rustenburg, Sandfontein and Sasolburg in the past eight months.

"More and more of our customers are appreciating that this is a less disruptive and production-friendly alternative to attending scheduled training courses at Wearcheck's offices," he said.

Wearcheck is also making training more accessible to customers who are not located in Johannesburg and Durban. Regional courses catering for employees from different companies were successfully staged in Cape Town and Nelspruit during July.

Steve Fourie, a consulting engineer overseeing government earthmoving contracts in Port Elizabeth, had the following to say about a course he attended at Beekays Plant Services in August.

"As an engineer it was interesting and informative to hear somebody 'preaching' what many engineers in my line of work already feel. The only pity is that some of the people that we deal with can be sceptical about the viability of the process of oil sampling to be able to serve as a very valuable tool in the field of preventative maintenance."

"As to the presentation of the course I found it very professionally presented and it was pleasing to have somebody presenting the course who was able to answer all of the questions asked from a rather diverse audience as far as experience and qualifications are concerned."

"The fact that you were able to indicate actual examples of failures that could be attributed to a lack of proper lubrication and maintenance helped to highlight the points that you were making . . . these are the things that tend to stick in a persons mind rather than pure facts that are unsubstantiated."

"My interest has been tweaked to the point that I would like to know more about what Wearcheck does, how you do it and to see the laboratories where you carry out your testing."

For more details about the following Wearcheck courses or on modules which can be presented specifically to suit your requirements, contact Cathy Bolton on (011) 392-6322 or email: jhbsupport@wearcheck.co.za.

ONE-DAY TRAINING COURSES

- Oil analysis orientation
- Understanding oil and its analysis
- Report interpretation (focusing on engines, drivetrains and clean oil systems)

HALF DAY COURSES

- Advanced course for maintenance managers
- Practical on-site workshop in English or Zulu on how to take a sample

If you would prefer to receive future issues of Wearcheck Monitor and Technical Bulletin via e-mail instead of in printed form, please e-mail a request to: support@wearcheck.co.za

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