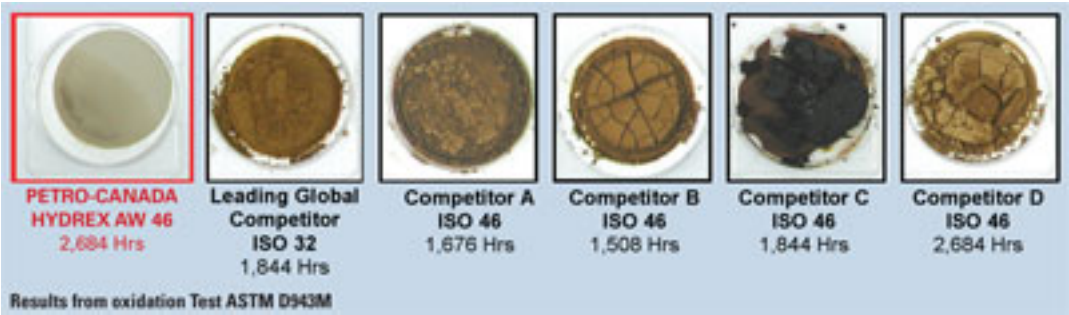

Problem

Imagine you are running a marathon—*24/7/365*—with a coach right behind you, constantly demanding more speed and reduced time splits. While your training regimen may have prepared you for the challenge, once you start the race, how do you ensure that your joints and limbs keep operating? Performance fluids play an important role in hydrating a runner's system, purging toxins from organs and lubricating joints. Hydraulic equipment has similar needs in maintaining system performance.

Heavy-duty hydraulic systems in today's industrial plants and mobile equipment endure some of the toughest operating conditions there are, running under extreme pressures, at increasing speeds and working harder than ever. Now, in light of the trend toward smaller reservoirs, even more stress is being put on this equipment: Air and heat don't escape as easily as they do with larger reservoirs. Water may not separate as effectively. Contaminants can accumulate faster. The rate of oxidation rises, as does the risk of harmful sludge buildup. Even with a good filtering system, excessive sludge can plug filters, increasing equipment wear and seriously damaging the hydraulic pump. An indicator of high varnish potential—*a resinous matter that forms hard deposits on components* —sludge can signal real trouble for your operations.

The bottom line…

As equipment runs harder, fluids can break down faster, risking total system failure and costly equipment downtime. A high-performance hydraulic fluid ensures optimal productivity while saving you money. But how do you go about selecting the right one?

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