

WATER ABSORBING CARTRIDGES SERVICE LIFE

Since our bulletin of May 22, 2003, Vol. 2 Number 3, there have been a number of important developments. These are summarized as follows.

1. A task force has been formed by API/IP to investigate the performance of water absorbing cartridges. The task force includes members of the oil industry, filter manufacturers, airlines and fixed base operators (FBO's).
2. Analytical work conducted by Velcon Filters, Inc. indicates the presence of sodium chloride (salt) on the water absorbing polymers and that this salt can degrade the performance of these water absorbing polymers. At this stage it is not clear as to how the salt is getting into the fuel system – further tests and analysis are being conducted.
3. Tests on six (6) inch cartridges also show, at some locations, that the performance of cartridges in service for over one year exhibit a similar degradation in performance to the two (2) inch monitors. Again, all poorly performing cartridges show a presence of salt on the water absorbing polymers. It should be understood that the Velcon cartridges that have performed poorly have all shown a high pressure differential (in excess of 25 psid) during our testing.
4. Although we believe that salt is a major factor, we continue to investigate other factors as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS – SERVICE LIFE

As recent test data indicates that six (6) inch cartridges can be affected, Velcon Filters, Inc. recommends the following:

Service life for all water absorbing cartridges, including two (2), five (5) and six (6) inch diameter cartridges, should be one (1) year, unless stated otherwise by your company's fuel handling procedures.

Velcon Filters will continue to work with companies and operators who wish to extend service life beyond one year by testing cartridges that have been in service for one year or longer. Please contact Velcon Filters, Inc., at vfsales@velcon.com or fax us at **719-531-5690**, if you wish to participate in this program.

We also continue to recommend that all operators continue to diligently conduct water removal procedures as outlined in our service bulletin of May 22, 2003. Please see our web site, <http://www.velcon.com/doc/vol2no3.pdf> for this bulletin.