

FAQ's for the Revised TC-W3® Program

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) Certification programs cover many marine products. From boats and trailers to components, NMMA holds these certified products to the highest industry standards. NMMA certification also includes marine oils to help boaters recognize lubricants that will maintain their boat engine's designed performance.

Due to the function of two-stroke cycle marine engines, two-stroke oil lubricates engine parts as it passes through the engine and is then burned along with the fuel. Two-stroke oil is either physically mixed with the fuel, or in the case of direct fuel injection, is combined with the fuel in the combustion chamber. The standards for marine oils that are certified by NMMA and bear the TC-W3® trademark have evolved over the years through much research and testing. TC-W3® lubricants also help to meet EPA emissions reductions.

1. What is changing in the TC-W3® program?

The TC-W3® program is a Two-Stroke, Water-Cooled marine oil testing and certification program that is administered by NMMA and has been highly successful in both the US and internationally. The TC-W3® program has recently modified certain testing and certification requirements.

2. Is this a new TC-W3® oil?

No, these products are still TC-W3® oils and continue to meet the approved NMMA Certification Program standards.

3. Is the NMMA Certification process changing?

No, the certification process is not changing, but certain program requirements have been modified.

4. What has changed?

The requirements of the certification program underwent a thorough review by marine engine and oil experts resulting in modifications to the TC-W3® product approval system. Some testing requirements were changed. Also, due to the availability of different base oils, the scope of allowable base oils was expanded. This TC-W3® marine oil will be identified with an "m" designator in the "RL" oil registration number.

5. As a boater, will using this TC-W3® oil void my warranty?

No, this TC-W3® oil will satisfy all warranties recommending TC-W3® oil.

6. Are the current TC-W3® oils still available?

Yes, the previously certified oils are still available and can be recognized by the RL number. Both RL and "m" oils will be maintained in the TC-W3® program. All licensed products in these programs will continue to be listed on the NMMA website (<http://www.nmma.org/certification/oil/tc-w3>).

7. Are there advantages and/or disadvantages to either oil?

No, both oils meet the same level of TC-W3[®] requirements.

8. Then why change the program?

Periodic reviews are needed to maintain the health of any certification program. The last review of this program was made over ten years ago, and resulted in modifications to the testing requirements and the addition of an engine lubricity test. At that time the program moved from an “R” designator to an “RL” designator. The current changes are the result of a program-wide review that took place in 2015.

9. When will these oils be available to the public?

The revised testing requirements are now in place and all future oil formulations will be tested to these requirements. Please watch for additional updates from NMMA regarding these changes.

10. Will the TC-W3[®] logo remain the same?

Yes, the oils registered in this program will use the same TC-W3[®] logo which is familiar to consumers.

For more information about the TC-W3[®] Oil Certification program, please email Scott Berry at sberry@nmma.org or visit the TC-W3[®] website (<http://www.nmma.org/certification/oil/tc-w3>).