

Description and Operation

System Operation

Intelligent Oil-Life Monitor (IOLM) and 'variable' oil change intervals

Ford vehicles are equipped with an Intelligent Oil-Life Monitor (IOLM) that determines when the engine oil must be changed, based on how the vehicle is used. By considering several important factors in its calculations, the IOLM helps to ensure that the engine performs at its best while also helping to avoid unnecessary oil changes. The IOLM together with advanced, high specification oils, allow greater distances to be achieved in between oil changes, but this varies depending on how and where vehicles are driven.

Driving conditions and driving styles have an impact on the vehicle's oil life. For example, vehicles that are driven predominantly on highways will not experience the same level of oil dilution as vehicles driven predominantly around town or in city centers, where frequent engine starting and stationary periods are normal. Vehicles used as taxis, for multi-drop deliveries, for short journeys, when stationary with the engine running for long periods of time, will all experience greater levels of oil dilution than vehicles not operating under such conditions.

Therefore, depending on driving style and conditions, some customers may not reach the scheduled service interval before the engine oil life is depleted and requires changing. When the oil life is fully depleted the following information message is displayed in the vehicle's instrument cluster: Oil Change Required. The driver is reminded with this message every time the vehicle's ignition is switched on. It is important that this message is not ignored and the engine oil is changed as soon as possible to protect the engine from premature wear and failure, no later than 1,500 km (1,000 mi) or one month, occurs first.

The following factors can reduce the interval between oil changes:

- Frequent low-speed city-center driving (below 50 kph/30 mph)
- Frequent short journeys (below 3 km/2 mi), where the engine does not reach its normal operating temperature
- Frequent engine starting
- High engine load conditions, for example: driving the vehicle fully loaded, trailer towing, frequent hill climbs.

To maximize the intervals between oil changes, the following conditions are recommended:

- The vehicle is not stationary with the engine running for long periods of time
- The vehicle is driven with engine speeds mainly above 1,700 rpm for at least 15 minutes once the engine has reached normal operating temperature, at least once a week.