



SERVICEINFO

AIC Germany
Automotive Components

OIL SEPARATORS

Winter Time – Frost Time – Danger Time for Motors

Service topic: replace sludgy oil separators immediately!



Photo: BMW-Syndikat.de



Photo: foellia

It is essential that urban commuters usually driving only short distances check the oil separator in winter.

The job of an oil separator is to prevent oil vapour from entering the engine's induction system. Oil in the motor gases condenses. But any water contained is also separated – resulting in an “oil slush” mixture.

In winter, this sludgy mixture can freeze into potentially damaging oil-water lumps that may block the engine's air intake.

The effects can include:

Excess pressure in the crankcase, causing oil to enter and burn in the cylinders. This pressure also sometimes causes oil to leak out, e.g. from the oil cap or out of oil hoses. The oil-water mixture might also be visible on the inside of the oil cap. The loss of oil can ultimately cause irreversible engine damage or even piston seizures. Most at risk are those only driving short distances such as urban commuters.

FYI: the current TECCAT lists 18 oil separators that are suitable for 432 models of vehicles.



ATTENTION

Frozen oil separators represent a major hazard for any vehicle and can cause irreparable damage to engines. Symptoms may include – insofar as the engine starts at all – excessive engine noise during cold starts and a lack of responsiveness when pressing the accelerator during driving. **Even just starting the engine or driving short distances in a frozen condition – such as to the next garage – should be avoided at all costs.**



INSPECTION TIP

- Have you seen any oil-water mixture in the inside of the oil cap, on the oil filter or any other accessible area?

Then make sure you check the oil separator!



IF IN DOUBT

- Those only driving short distances are at the highest risk. For older vehicles it may make good sense to conduct service inspections at the garage more regularly.
- Even if “a long trip on a motorway” is often suggested in forums as a method to clean oil separators, the part should certainly be at least checked before the height of winter in conjunction with the oil change.