



Base Oil Categories - Trading Reference Table

This table provides a trading reference for base oil categories, typical grades, applications, and typical product colors. Useful for commercial and export purposes.

API Group	Common Grades / Codes	Applications / Notes	Typical Color / Appearance
Group I (Solvent Refined)	SN70, SN100, SN150, SN200, SN300, SN350, SN500, SN600, Bright Stock	Conventional engine oils, industrial oils; solvent-refined; lower VI; mostly older engines	Light Amber to Dark Amber; Bright Stock = Dark Brown/Amber
Group II (Hydrotreated)	60N, 70N, 100N, 150N, 220N, 300N, 500N, 600N	Modern engine oils, industrial oils; hydrotreated; higher VI than Group I; widely traded	Light Yellow to Yellow
Group III (Severely Hydrocracked / VHVI)	2 cSt, 3 cSt, 4 cSt, 6 cSt, 8 cSt, VHVI 4, VHVI 6, VHVI 8	High VI engine oils; synthetic blends; marketed as synthetic in many regions; very stable	Water White to Pale Yellow
Group III+ (Ultra High VI / GTL)	GTL 4 cSt, GTL 6 cSt, GTL 8 cSt, XHVI grades	Ultra high performance; used in top-tier engine oils; GTL = Gas to Liquid; premium market	Clear / Water White
Group IV (PAO)	PAO 2, PAO 4, PAO 6, PAO 8, PAO 10, PAO 40, PAO 100	True synthetic polyalphaolefin; very high oxidation & thermal stability; fully synthetic engine oils	Clear / Water White
Group V (Others / Specialty)	Esters, PAG, Naphthenic oils, White oils, Silicone oils, Bio-based oils	Specialty industrial oils, hydraulic, compressor, food grade, bio-lubricants; not in I-IV	Varies: Amber, Yellow, Clear, Transparent, or Water White