

Regular Fluid Analysis

Regular Fluid Analysis Helps Assure Proper System Functioning

An effective preventive maintenance program should always include regularly scheduled analysis of heat transfer fluids. However, the response these fluids have to adverse conditions is different from the response of lubricating oils, so users need to collect different analytical data. The three most critical tests to track are:

- **Acid Number.** Shows current oxidation level of the fluid. This is predictive of future fouling and sludge problems.
- **Viscosity.** Determines whether fluid has become too viscous (thick) for efficient heat transfer.
- **Distillation Range.** Analyses fluid composition for alteration caused by overheating.

If testing concludes that fluid degradation has occurred, equipment and/or operational abnormalities may be the cause. Correcting such problems before they cause serious product quality issues or production shutdowns will save money and increase efficiency.