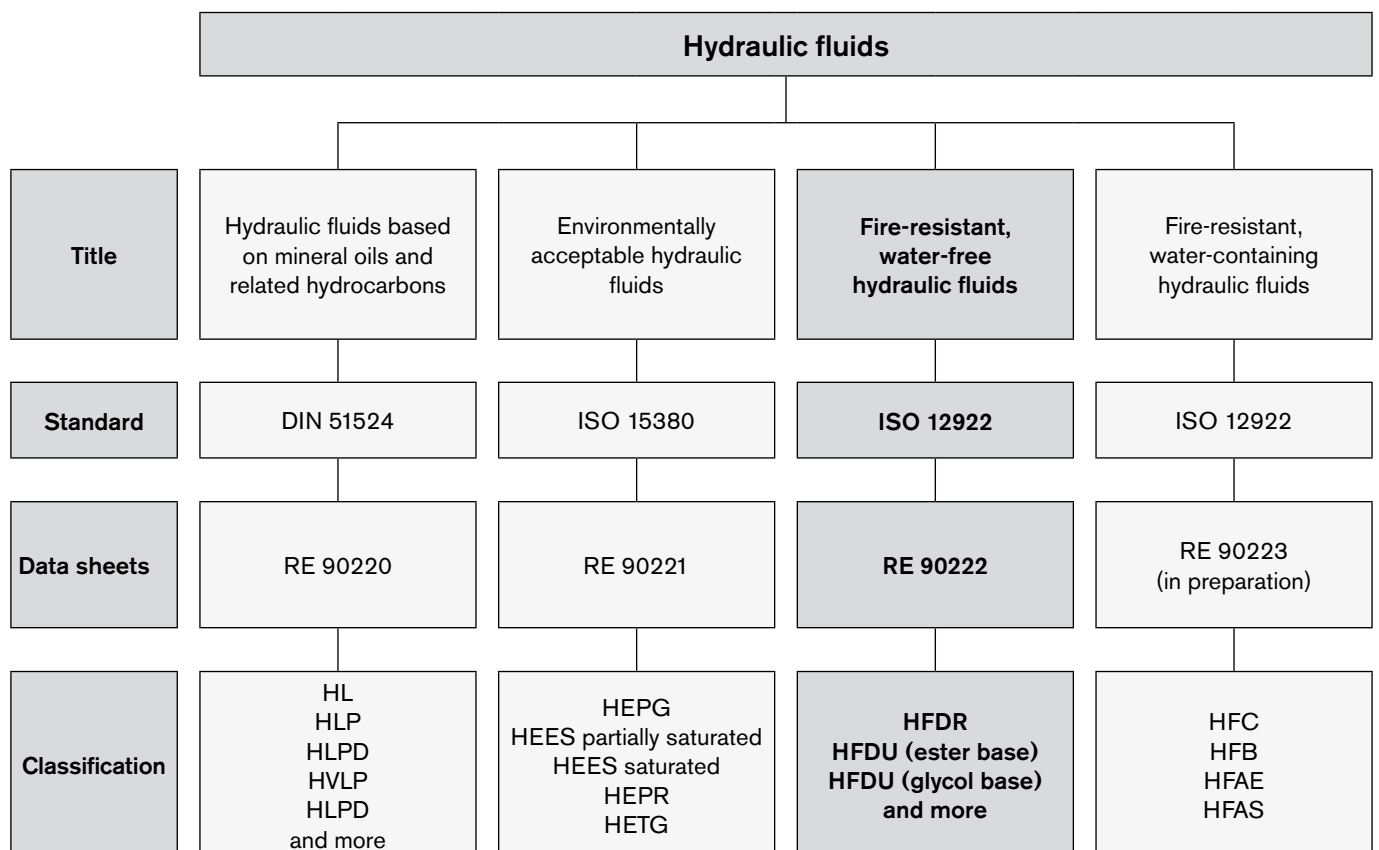


Fire-resistant, water-free hydraulic fluids (HFDR/HFDU)

RE 90222/05.12 1/16

Application notes and requirements for Rexroth hydraulic components



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1 Basic information

1.1 General instructions

The hydraulic fluid is the common element in any hydraulic component and must be selected very carefully. Quality and cleanliness of the hydraulic fluid are decisive factors for the operational reliability, efficiency and service life of a system.

Hydraulic fluids must conform, be selected and used in accordance with the generally acknowledged rules of technology and safety provisions. Reference is made to the country-specific standards and directives (in Germany the directive of the Employer's Liability Insurance Association BGR 137).

This data sheet includes recommendations and regulations concerning the selection, operation and disposal of fire-resistant, water-free hydraulic fluids in the application of Rexroth hydraulic components.

The individual selection of hydraulic fluid or the choice of classification are the responsibility of the operator.

It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that appropriate measures are taken for safety and health protection and to ensure compliance with statutory regulations. The recommendations of the lubricant manufacturer and the specifications given in the safety data sheet are to be observed when using hydraulic fluid.

This data sheet does not absolve the operator from verifying the conformity and suitability of the respective hydraulic fluid for his system. He is to ensure that the selected fluid meets the minimum requirements of the relevant hydraulic fluid standard during the whole of the period of use.

The currently valid standard for fire-resistant hydraulic fluids is the ISO 12922. In addition, other, more detailed documents, guidelines, specifications and legislation may also be valid. The operator is responsible for ensuring that such regulations are observed, for example:

- 7th Luxembourg Report: Luxembourg, April 1994, Doc. No. 4746/10/91 EN "Requirements and tests applicable to fire-resistant hydraulic fluids for hydrostatic and hydrokinetic power transmission and control"
- VDMA 24314 (1981-11): "Changing hydraulic fluids – guidelines"
- VDMA 24317 (2005-11): "Fire-resistant hydraulic fluids – minimum technical requirements"
- FM Approval Standard 6930 (2009-04): "Flammability Classification of Industrial Fluids" (only available in English)
- DIN Technical Report CEN/TR 14489 (2006-01): "Selection guidelines for protecting safety, health and the environment"

We recommend that you maintain constant, close contact with lubricant manufacturers to support you in the selection, maintenance, care and analyses.

When disposing of used hydraulic fluids, apply the same care as during use.

1.2 Fire resistance

There is no clear legal definition of fire-resistant hydraulic fluids. There are great differences regarding fire resistance. The selection is the sole responsibility of the system operator with respect to requirements (application, construction and design of the system, hottest source in the system, necessary fire protection).

Different test procedures are applied for evaluating fire resistance.

Fire resistance test procedure according to ISO 12922:

- Ignition properties of spray according to ISO 15029-1 (Spray flame persistence – hollow-cone nozzle method)
- Ignition properties of spray according to ISO 15029-2 (Stabilized flame heat release)
- Wick flame persistence of fluids according to ISO 14935 (average flame persistence)
- Determination of the flammability characteristics of fluids in contact with hot surfaces, ignition process according to ISO 20823 (ignition temperature, flame spread)

In general, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids are distinguished between **water-containing** fire-resistant and **water-free** fire-resistant hydraulic fluids. Water-containing fire-resistant hydraulic fluids are described in RE 90223.

Water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluid means hydraulic fluids with a water-proportion of 0.1% by volume ("Karl Fischer method", see chapter 6 "Glossary"), measured at the time of filling in the transport container.

In Europe water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids are not approved for use in underground coal mining. The classification HFDU is no longer included in the VDMA 24317: 2005.

Note

In contrast to water-containing fluids, all water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids have a flash point and a fire point. Specific parameters for flash point and fire point can be found in the technical and/or safety data sheet for the hydraulic fluid concerned.

Just as much care should be taken when working with fire-resistant hydraulic fluids as with other hydraulic fluids, e.g. mineral oils. A leak from the hydraulic system must be avoided. The best and most cost-effective protection against fire and explosion is to prevent leakage with meticulous service, maintenance and care of the hydraulic system.

1.3 Scope

This data sheet must be applied when using water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids with Rexroth hydraulic components. The specifications of this data sheet may be further restricted by the specifications given in data sheets for the individual components concerned.

The use of the individual water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids in accordance with the intended purpose can be found in the safety data sheets or other product description documents of the lubricant manufacturers. In addition, each use is to be individually considered.

Rexroth hydraulic components may only be operated with water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids according to ISO 12922 if specified in the respective component data sheet or if a Rexroth approval for use is furnished.

The manufacturers of hydraulic systems must adjust their systems and operating instructions to the water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids.

Bosch Rexroth will accept no liability for its components for any damage resulting from failure to comply with the notes below.

1.4 Safety instructions

Hydraulic fluids can constitute a risk for persons and the environment. These risks are described in the hydraulic fluid safety data sheets. The operator is to ensure that a current safety data sheet for the hydraulic fluid used is available and that the measures stipulated therein are complied with.

2 Solid particle contamination and cleanliness levels

Solid particle contamination is the major reason for faults occurring in hydraulic systems. It may lead to a number of effects in the hydraulic system. Firstly, single large solid particles may lead directly to a system malfunction, and secondly small particles cause continuous elevated wear.

For mineral oils, the cleanliness level of water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids is given as a three-digit numerical code in accordance with ISO 4406. This numerical code denotes the number of particles present in a hydraulic fluid for a defined quantity. Moreover, foreign solid matter is not to exceed a mass of 50 mg/kg (gravimetric examination according to ISO 4405).

In general, compliance with a minimum cleanliness level of 20/18/15 in accordance with ISO 4406 or better is to be maintained in operation. Special servo valves demand improved cleanliness levels of at least 18/16/13. A reduction in cleanliness level by one level means half of the quantity of particles and thus greater cleanliness. Lower numbers in cleanliness levels should always be striven for and extend the service life of hydraulic components. The component with the highest cleanliness requirements determines the required cleanliness of the overall system. Please also observe the specifications in table 1: "Cleanliness levels according to ISO 4406" and in the respective data sheets of the various hydraulic components.

Hydraulic fluids frequently fail to meet these cleanliness requirements on delivery. Careful filtering is therefore required during operation and in particular, during filling in order to ensure the required cleanliness levels. Your lubricant manufacturer can tell you the cleanliness level of hydraulic fluids as delivered. To maintain the required cleanliness level over the operating period, you must use a reservoir breather filter. If the environment is humid, take appropriate measures, such as a breather filter with air drying or permanent off-line water separation.

Note: the specifications of the lubricant manufacturer relating to cleanliness levels are based on the time at which the container concerned is filled and not on the conditions during transport and storage.

Further information about contamination with solid matter and cleanliness levels can be found in brochure RE 08016.

Table 1: Cleanliness levels according to ISO 4406

Particles per 100 ml		Scale number
More than	Up to and including	
8,000,000	16,000,000	24
4,000,000	8,000,000	23
2,000,000	4,000,000	22
1,000,000	2,000,000	21
500,000	1,000,000	20
250,000	500,000	19
130,000	250,000	18
64,000	130,000	17
32,000	64,000	16
16,000	32,000	15
8,000	16,000	14
4,000	8,000	13
2,000	4,000	12
1,000	2,000	11
500	1,000	10
250	500	9
130	250	8
64	130	7
32	64	6

20 / 18 / 15
 > 4 µm > 6 µm > 14 µm

3 Selection of the hydraulic fluid

Water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids for Bosch Rexroth hydraulic components are assessed on the basis of their fulfillment of the minimum requirements of ISO 12922.

3.1 Selection criteria for the hydraulic fluid

The specified limit values for all components employed in the hydraulic system, for example viscosity and cleanliness level, must be observed with the hydraulic fluid used, taking into account the specified operating conditions.

Hydraulic fluid suitability depends, amongst others, on the following factors:

3.1.1 Viscosity

Viscosity is a basic property of hydraulic fluids. The permissible viscosity range of complete systems needs to be determined taking account of the permissible viscosity of all components and it is to be observed for each individual component.

The viscosity at operating temperature determines the response characteristics of closed control loops, stability and damping of systems, the efficiency factor and the degree of wear.

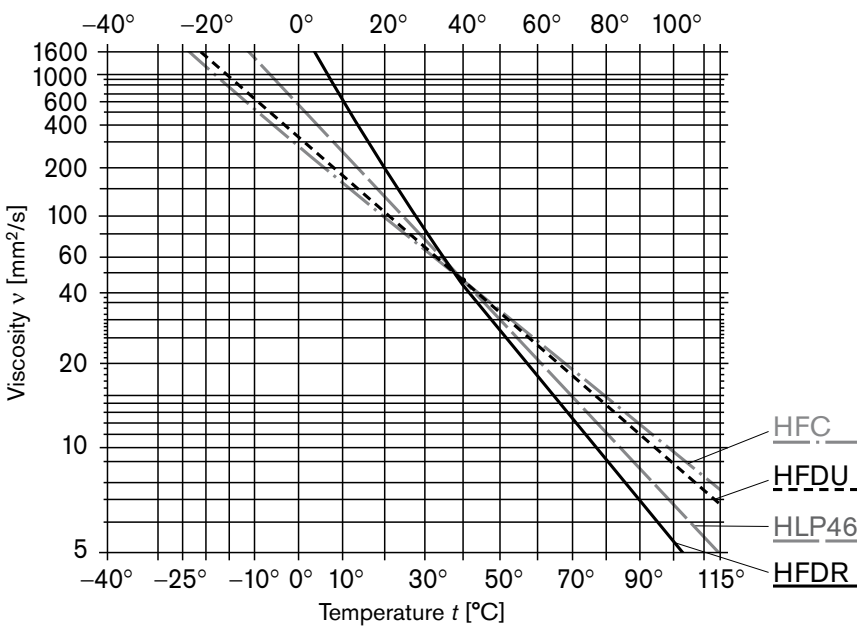
We recommend that the optimum operating viscosity range of each component be kept within the permissible temperature range. This usually requires either cooling or heating, or both. The permissible viscosity range and the necessary cleanliness level can be found in the product data sheet for the component concerned.

If the viscosity of a hydraulic fluid used is above the permitted operating viscosity, this will result in increased hydraulic-mechanical losses. In return, there will be lower internal leakage losses. If the pressure level is lower, lubrication gaps may not be filled up, which can lead to increased wear. For hydraulic pumps, the permitted suction pressure may not be reached, which may lead to cavitation damage.

If the viscosity of a hydraulic fluid is below the permitted operating viscosity, increased leakage, wear, susceptibility to contamination and a shorter component life cycle will result.

Please ensure that the permissible temperature and viscosity limits are observed for the respective components. This usually requires either cooling or heating, or both.

Fig. 1: Examples V-T diagrams for water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids in comparison to HLP and HFC (reference values, double-logarithmic representation)



Typical viscosity data [mm ² /s]			
at temperature	0 °C	40 °C	100 °C
HFDR	2500	43	5,3
HFDU (ester base)	330	46	9,2
HFDU (glycol base)	350	46	8,7
For comparison HLP (see RE 90220)	610	46	7
For comparison HFC (see RE 90223)	280	46	

Detailed V-T diagrams may be obtained from your lubricant manufacturer for their specific products. Descriptions of the individual classifications can be found in chapter 3.2 and in Table 4.

3.1.2 Viscosity-temperature behavior

For hydraulic fluids, the viscosity temperature behavior (V-T behavior) is of particular importance. Viscosity is characterized in that it drops when the temperature increases and rises when the temperature drops. The interrelation between viscosity and temperature is described by the viscosity index (VI).

For cold testing over a period of several days, the viscosity of ester-based HFDU can increase greatly. After heating, the characteristic values as specified on the data sheet are restored. Please ask your lubricant manufacturer for the "Flow capacity after seven days at low temperature" (ASTM D 2532) for the fluid classification ester-based HFDU .

HFDU fluid based on ester and glycol have better viscosity/temperature characteristics than mineral oil HLP (see Fig. 1).

This should be taken into consideration when selecting hydraulic fluid for the required temperature range. The viscosity and temperature limits required in the product data sheets are to be observed in all operating conditions.

Note

For ambient temperatures below 0 °C, fire-resistant, **water-containing** hydraulic fluids of classification HFC are to be preferred because they observe the component-related viscosity ranges and because they have better pour points (see RE 90223).

3.1.3 Wear protection capability

Wear protection capability describes the property of hydraulic fluids to prevent or minimize wear within the components. The wear protection capability is described in ISO 12922 via test procedures "FZG gear test rig" (ISO 14635-1) and "Mechanical test in the vane pump" (ISO 20763). The wear protection capability of water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids in relation to the two test procedures is comparable to that of mineral oil HLP/HVLP.

3.1.4 Material compatibility

The hydraulic fluid must not negatively affect the materials used in the components. Compatibility with coatings, seals, hoses, metals and plastics is to be observed in particular. The fluid classifications specified in the respective component data sheets are tested by the manufacturer with regard to material compatibility. Parts and components not supplied by us are to be checked by the user.

Table 2: Known material incompatibilities

Classification	Incompatible with:
HFD in general	Seals, plastics and coatings of control cabinets, outer coatings of hydraulic components and accessory components (connectors, wiring harnesses, control cabinets) are to be tested for stability. Note: hydraulic fluid vapors can also lead to incompatibility!
HFDR	Individual component color coating, lead, galvanic zinc-plating, in part non-ferrous metals with zinc, tin and aluminum in a tribological system. Sealing elements made of NBR. In some cases, the latter show major increases in volume when impermissibly aged hydraulic fluids come into contact with the material. Do not use any hydrolysis/susceptible polyurethane qualities.
HFDU based on ester	Single-component color coatings, lead, galvanized zinc coatings, in part non-ferrous metals with zinc, tin, seals made of NBR. In some cases, the latter show major increases in volume when impermissibly aged hydraulic fluids come into contact with the material. Do not use any hydrolysis/susceptible polyurethane qualities.
HFDU based on glycol	Single-component color coatings, steel/aluminum tribocontacts, paper filters, polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA). The compatibility of NBR is to be examined for individual case.

The material incompatibilities mentioned here do not automatically result in function problems. However the elements of the materials are found in the hydraulic fluids after use. The material incompatibilities described here may lead to accelerated aging of the hydraulic fluid and to reduced fire resistance.

3.1.5 Aging resistance

The way a water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluid ages depends on the thermal, chemical and mechanical stress to which it is subjected. The influence of water, air, temperature and contamination may be significantly greater than for mineral oils HLP/HVLP. Aging resistance can be greatly influenced by the chemical composition of the hydraulic fluids.

High fluid temperatures (e.g. over 80 °C) result in an approximate halving of the fluid service life for every 10 °C temperature increase and should therefore be avoided. The halving of the fluid service life results from the application of the Arrhenius equation (see Glossary).

Table 3: Reference values for temperature-dependent aging of the hydraulic fluid

Reservoir temperature	Fluid life cycle
80 °C	100 %
90 °C	50 %
100 °C	25 %

A modified aging test (ISO 4263-3 or ASTM D943 – without the addition of water) is specified for fluid classification HFDU. Fluid classification HFDR is described with a special procedure with respect to oxidation stability (EN 14832) and oxidation service life (ISO 4263-3). The calculated fluid service life is derived from the results of tests in which the long-term characteristics are simulated in a short period of time by applying more arduous conditions (condensed testing). This calculated fluid service life is not to be equated to the fluid service life in real-life applications.

Table 3 is a practical indicator for hydraulic fluids with water content < 0.1%, cf. chapter 4.10. "Water".

3.1.6 Environmentally acceptable

HFDU fluids based on ester and glycol are hydraulic fluids which may also be classified as environmentally acceptable. The main criteria for fire-resistant, water-free hydraulic fluids are the leak-free, technically problem-free use and the necessary fire resistance. Environmentally acceptable is merely a supplementary criterion. Notes on environmentally compatible hydraulic fluids can be found in RE 90221.

3.1.7 Air separation ability (ASA)

The air separation ability (ASA) describes the property of a hydraulic fluid to separate undissolved air. Hydraulic fluids always contain dissolved air. During operation, dissolved air may be transformed into undissolved air, leading to cavitation damages. Fluid classification, fluid product, reservoir size and design must be coordinated to take into account the dwell time and ASA value of the hydraulic fluid. The air separation capacity depends on the viscosity, temperature, basic fluid and aging. It cannot be improved by additives.

According to ISO 12922 for instance, an ASA value ≤ 15 minutes is required for viscosity class ISO VG 46, practical values on delivery are < 10 minutes, lower values are preferable.

3.1.8 Demulsifying ability and water solubility

The capacity of a hydraulic fluid to separate water at a defined temperature is known as the demulsifying ability. ISO 6614 defines the demulsifying properties of hydraulic fluids.

The fluid classifications HFDU based on ester and HFDR separate water, but HFD hydraulic fluids have a different water separation ability to mineral oil HLP/HVLP. At 20 °C, in comparison to mineral oil HLP/HVLP, a multiple (> factor 3) of water can separate in the hydraulic fluid. Water solubility is also more temperature-dependent than for mineral oils. The fluid classification HFDU based on glycol usually dissolves water completely, see chapter "4.10 Water".

3.1.9 Filterability

Filterability describes the ability of a hydraulic fluid to pass through a filter, removing solid contaminants. The hydraulic fluids used require a good filterability, not just when new, but also during the whole of their service life. This can differ greatly depending on the different basic fluids (glycols, esters) and additives (VI enhancers, anti-fogging additives).

The filterability is a basic prerequisite for cleanliness, servicing and filtration of hydraulic fluids. Rexroth therefore requires the same degree of filterability of water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids as for mineral oils HLP/HVLP to DIN 51524.

As ISO 12922 does not comment on the filterability of hydraulic fluids, filterability comparable to that of mineral oils HLP/HVLP must be requested of lubricant manufacturers.

Filterability is tested with the new hydraulic fluid and after the addition of 0.2 % water. The underlying standard (ISO 13357-1/-2) stipulates that filterability must have no negative effects on the filters or the hydraulic fluid, see chapter 4 "Hydraulic fluids in operation".

3.1.10 Corrosion protection

Hydraulic fluids should not just prevent corrosion formation on steel components, they must also be compatible with non-ferrous metals and alloys. Corrosion protection tests on different metals and metal alloys are described in ISO 12922.

Rexroth components are usually tested with HLP hydraulic fluids or corrosion protection oils based on mineral oils before they are delivered.

3.1.11 Additivation

The properties described above can be modified with the help of suitable additives.

Bosch Rexroth does not prescribe any specific additive system.

3.2 Classification and fields of application

Table 4: Classification and fields of application

Classification	Features	Typical field of application	Notes
<p>HFDU (glycol-based) according to ISO 12922</p> <p>Density at 15 °C: typically > 0.97 kg/dm³</p> <p>VI: typical > 170</p> <p>The classification "HFDU" is no longer listed in the current standard sheet VDMA 24317.</p>	<p>Base fluid: Glycols</p>	<p>Mobile systems with high thermal loading</p>	<p>For information on approved components, please refer to the respective product data sheet. For components which have not been approved according to the product data sheet, please consult your Bosch Rexroth sales partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Very good viscosity/temperature characteristics, shear stability – Resistant to aging – Can be water-soluble – Can be mixed with water – Very good wear protection properties – A higher implementation temperature with the same viscosity in comparison to mineral oil is to be expected – Due to the higher density in comparison to HLP, lower suction pressures are to be anticipated for pumps. Reduce the maximum speed as required and optimize suction conditions. – Prior to commissioning, contact the lubricant manufacturer, as the components are tested with mineral oil HLP/corrosion protection oil. – Incompatible with mineral oil (exceptions must be confirmed by the lubricant manufacturer).
<p>HFDU (ester-based) according to ISO 12922</p> <p>Density at 15 °C: typically 0.90-0.93 kg/dm³</p> <p>VI: typical > 160</p> <p>Iodine count < 90</p> <p>The classification "HFDU" is no longer listed in the current standard sheet VDMA 24317.</p>	<p>Base fluid: Ester based on regenerative raw materials, synthetic ester and mixtures of different esters</p> <p>Because of the fire resistance, HFDU hydraulic fluids based on ester are usually partially saturated esters</p>	<p>Suitable for most fields of application and components.</p>	<p>For information on approved components, please refer to the respective product data sheet. For components which have not been approved according to the product data sheet, please consult your Bosch Rexroth sales partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preferred use of FKM seals. Please enquire about shaft seal rings and implementation temperatures under –15 °C. – Note shear stability (see chapter 4.11 "Fluid servicing, fluid analysis and filtration" and chapter 6 "Glossary") – Fire resistance is not stable over time – In operation, a higher temperature in comparison to mineral oil HLP/HVLP is to be expected given identical design and viscosity. Please check ATEX approvals for hydraulic components. – Limit the lower (see chapter 3.1.2) and upper implementation temperatures (see chapter 3.1.5) – Good viscosity-temperature behavior – Usually classified as insignificantly water-endangering (water hazard class WGK 1) – High dirt dissolving capacity on fluid changeovers – In unfavorable operating conditions (high water content, high temperature), HFDU on ester basis have a tendency to hydrolysis. The acidic organic decomposition products can chemically attack materials and components.

Classification	Features	Typical field of application	Notes
<p>HFDR according to ISO 12922</p> <p>Density at 15 °C: typically 1.1 kg/dm³</p> <p>VI : typical 140–160</p>	Base fluid: phosphoric acid ester	Turbine control systems	<p>For information on approved components, please refer to the respective product data sheet. For components which have not been approved according to the product data sheet, please consult your Bosch Rexroth sales partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Classified as hazardous materials (for transportation and storage) – Hazardous working material – Water-endangering (Water hazard class 2 – WGK2) – Develops toxic vapors in case of fire – Preferred use of FKM, and possibly PTFE seals. Please enquire for shaft seal rings and implementation temperatures under –15 °C. – In operation, a higher temperature in comparison to mineral oil HLP/HVLP is to be expected given identical design and viscosity – Phosphoric acid esters display a tendency to hydrolysis when they come into contact with moisture. Under the influence of water/moisture, they become unstable or form highly aggressive, acidic components which could damage the hydraulic fluid and component beyond repair. – Poor viscosity/temperature characteristics – Due to the higher density in comparison to HLP, lower suction pressures are to be anticipated for pumps. Reduce the maximum speed as required and optimize suction conditions. – In unfavorable operating conditions (high water content, high temperature), HFDR have a tendency to hydrolysis. The acidic inorganic decomposition products chemically attack materials and components.
HFDU (continued)	Based on triglycerides, mineral oils or related hydrocarbons	Not recommended for Rexroth components!	<p>Hydraulic fluids based on polyalphaolefines are not recommended on account of their poor fire resistance. This classification can usually be identified from: density < 0.89; VI < 140 to 160</p> <p>Hydraulic fluids based on triglycerides are not recommended on account of their aging resistance. This classification can usually be identified from: density > 0.92; VI > 190; iodine count > 90</p> <p>Consult your lubricant manufacturer or your Bosch Rexroth sales partner if the classification of a hydraulic fluid is not clear.</p>
HFDS HFDT	Based on halogenated hydrocarbons or mixtures with halogenated hydrocarbons	Not approved for Rexroth components!	HFDS and HFDT have not been permitted to be manufactured or used since 1989 for environmental reasons.

4 Hydraulic fluids in operation

4.1 General

The properties of hydraulic fluids can change continually during storage and operation.

Please note that the fluid standard ISO 12922 merely describes minimum requirements for hydraulic fluids in new condition at the time of filling into the bins. The operator of a hydraulic system must ensure that the hydraulic fluid remains in a utilizable condition throughout its entire period of use.

Deviations from the characteristic values are to be clarified with the lubricant manufacturer, the test labs or Bosch Rexroth.

Bosch Rexroth will accept no liability for damage to its components within the framework of the applicable liability legislation insofar as the latter is due to non-observance of the following instructions.

Please note the following aspects in operation.

4.2 Storage and handling

Hydraulic fluids must be stored correctly in accordance with the instructions of the lubricant manufacturer. Avoid exposing the containers to lengthy periods of direct heat. Containers are to be stored in such a way that the risk of any foreign liquid or solid matter (e.g. water, foreign fluids or dust) ingress into the inside of the container can be ruled out. After taking hydraulic fluids from the containers, these are immediately to be properly resealed.

Recommendation:

- Store containers in a dry, roofed place
- Store barrels on their sides
- Clean reservoir systems and machine reservoirs regularly

4.3 Filling of new systems

Usually, the cleanliness levels of the hydraulic fluids as delivered do not meet the requirements of our components. Hydraulic fluids must be filtered using an appropriate filter system to minimize solid particle contamination and water in the system.

As early as possible during test operation, new systems should be filled with the selected hydraulic fluid so as to reduce the risk of accidentally mixing fluids (see chapter 4.5 "Mixing and compatibility of different hydraulic fluids"). Changing the hydraulic medium at a later point represents significant additional costs (see following chapter).

4.4 Hydraulic fluid changeover

Problems may be encountered in particular when changing over from water-containing, fire-resistant hydraulic fluid or mineral oils to water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids (e.g. incompatibilities in the form of gelling, silting, stable foam, reduced filterability or filter blockage). This may also happen when changing products within the same classification.

In the case of changeovers of the fluid in hydraulic systems, it is important to ensure compatibility of the new hydraulic fluid with the remains of the previous hydraulic fluid. Bosch Rexroth recommends obtaining verification of compatibility from the

manufacturer or supplier of the new hydraulic fluid. The quantity of old fluid remaining should be minimized. Mixing hydraulic fluids should be avoided, see following chapter.

Information about changing to a hydraulic fluid of a different classification can be found, for example, in VDMA 24314 and in ISO 7745. In addition, the information given in chapter 3.1.4 "Material compatibility" is also to be observed.

Bosch Rexroth will not accept liability for any damage to its components resulting from inadequate hydraulic fluid changeovers!

4.5 Mixing and compatibility of different hydraulic fluids

If hydraulic fluids from different manufacturers or different types from the same manufacturer are mixed, gelling, silting and deposits may occur. These, in turn, may cause foaming, impaired air separation ability, malfunctions and damage to the hydraulic system.

If the fluid contains more than 2 % of another fluid then it is considered to be a mixture. Exceptions apply for water, see chapter 4.10 "Water".

Mixing with other hydraulic fluids is not generally permitted. This includes hydraulic fluids with the same classification. If individual lubricant manufacturers advertise miscibility and/or compatibility, this is entirely the responsibility of the lubricant manufacturer.

Bosch Rexroth customarily tests all components with mineral oil HLP before they are delivered.

Note: With connectible accessory units and mobile filtering systems, there is a considerable risk of non-permitted mixing of the hydraulic fluids!

Rexroth will not accept liability for any damage to its components resulting from mixing hydraulic fluids!

4.6 Re-additivation

Additives added at a later point in time such as colors, wear reducers, VI enhancers or anti-foam additives, may negatively affect the performance properties of the hydraulic fluid and the compatibility with our components and therefore are not permissible.

Rexroth will not accept liability for any damage to its components resulting from re-additivation!

4.7 Foaming behavior

Foam is created by rising air bubbles at the surface of hydraulic fluids in the reservoir. Foam that develops should collapse as quickly as possible.

Common hydraulic fluids in accordance with ISO 12922 are sufficiently inhibited against foam formation in new condition. On account of aging and adsorption onto surfaces, the defoamer concentration may decrease over time, leading to a stable foam.

Defoamers may be re-dosed only after consultation with the lubricant manufacturer and with his written approval.

Defoamers may affect the air separation ability.

4.8 Corrosion

The hydraulic fluid is to guarantee sufficient corrosion protection of components under all operating conditions, even in the event of impermissible water contamination.

Water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids are tested for corrosion protection in the same way as mineral oil HLP/HVLP. When used in practice other corrosion mechanisms are revealed in detail and in individual cases, for the most part in contact with non-ferrous and white alloys.

4.9 Air

Under atmospheric conditions the hydraulic fluid contains dissolved air. In the negative pressure range, for instance in the suction pipe of the pump or downstream of control edges, this dissolved air may transform into undissolved air. The undissolved air content represents a risk of cavitation and of the diesel effect. This results in material erosion of components and increased hydraulic fluid aging.

With the correct measures, such as suction pipe and reservoir design, and an appropriate hydraulic fluid, air intake and separation can be positively influenced.

See also chapter 3.1.7 "Air separation ability (ASA)".

4.10 Water

Water contamination in hydraulic fluids can result from direct ingress or indirectly through condensation of water from the air due to temperature variations.

HFDU hydraulic fluids on glycol basis are water-soluble or can be mixed with water. This means that any water that has ingressed into the system cannot be drained off in the sump of the reservoir.

In the case of HDFU hydraulic fluids on ester basis, undissolved water can be drained off from the reservoir sump, the remaining water content is however too high to ensure that the maximum permissible water limit values are observed in the long term.

With the fluid classification HFDR, the greater density of the ester means that the any water that has ingressed will be on the surface of the hydraulic fluid. This means that any water that has ingressed into the system cannot be drained off in the sump of the reservoir.

Water in the hydraulic fluid can result in wear or direct failure of hydraulic components. Furthermore, a high water content in the hydraulic fluid negatively affects aging and filterability and increases susceptibility to cavitation. During operation, the water content in all hydraulic fluids, determined according to the "Karl Fischer method" (see chapter 6 "Glossary") for all water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids must constantly be kept below 0.1% (1000 ppm). To ensure a long service life of both hydraulic fluids and components, Bosch Rexroth recommends that values below 0.05% (500 ppm) are permanently maintained.

Due to the higher water solubility in comparison to mineral oil HLP/HVLP it is urgently advised that precautions be taken when using water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids, such as a dehumidifier on the reservoir ventilation.

Water content has an affect particularly in the case of HEDU hydraulic fluid on ester basis and HFDR in that it accelerates aging (hydrolysis) of the hydraulic fluid and biological degradation, see chapter 4.11 "Fluid servicing, fluid analysis and filtration".

4.11 Fluid servicing, fluid analysis and filtration

Air, water, operating temperature influences and solid matter contamination will change the performance characteristics of hydraulic fluids and cause them to age.

To preserve the usage properties and ensure a long service life for hydraulic fluid and components, the monitoring of the fluid condition and a filtration adapted to the application requirements (draining and degassing if required) are indispensable.

The effort is higher in the case of unfavorable usage conditions, increased stress for the hydraulic system or high expectations as to availability and service life, see chapter 2 "Solid particle contamination and cleanliness levels".

When commissioning a system, please note that the required minimum cleanliness level can frequently be attained only by flushing the system. Due to severe start-up contamination, it may be possible that a fluid and/or filter replacement becomes necessary after a short operating period (< 50 operating hours).

The hydraulic fluid must be replaced at regular intervals and tested by the lubricant manufacturer or recognized accredited test labs. **We recommend a reference analysis after commissioning.**

The minimum data to be tested for analyses are:

- Viscosity at 40 °C and 100 °C
- Neutralization number NN (acid number AN)
- Water content (Karl-Fischer method)
- Particle measurement with evaluation according to ISO 4406 or mass of solid foreign substances with evaluation to EN 12662
- Element analysis (RFA (EDX) / ICP, specify test method)
- Comparison with new product or available trend analyses
- Assessment / evaluation for further use
- Also recommended: IR spectrum

No differences are needed in the maintenance and care of water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids with the appropriate suitability parameters compared to HLP/HVLP mineral oils. Attention is however drawn to the note in chapter 1.3.

After changing over hydraulic fluids it is recommended that the filters be replaced again after 50 operating hours as fluid aging products may have detached themselves ("self-cleaning effect").

Compared to the pure unused hydraulic fluid the changed neutralization number NN (acid number AN) indicates how many aging products are contained in the hydraulic fluid. This difference must be kept as small as possible. The lubricant manufacturer should be contacted as soon as the trend analysis notes a significant increase in values.

A higher viscosity than that of new materials indicates that the hydraulic fluid has aged. Evaluation by the test lab or lubricant manufacturers is however authoritative, whose recommendation should be urgently observed.

On systems where the possibility of water contamination cannot be completely ruled out (also condensation), it should be ensured via the hydraulic system circuit that fluid aging products are not accumulating in individual areas of the hydraulic system, but are being removed from the system in a controlled manner via the filtration system. This should be ensured via suitable hydraulic circuits (e.g. flushing circuit) or system manufacturer's operating instructions/specifications.

In case of warranty, liability or guarantee claims to Bosch Rexroth, service verification and/or the results of fluid analyses are to be provided.

5 Disposal and environmental protection

All water-free, fire-resistant hydraulic fluids, are, like mineral oil-based hydraulic fluids, subject to special disposal obligations.

The respective lubricant manufacturers provide specifications on environmentally acceptable handling and storage. Please ensure that spilt or splashed fluids are absorbed with appropriate adsorbents or by a technique that prevents it contaminating water courses, the ground or sewerage systems.

It is also not permitted to mix fluids when disposing of hydraulic fluids. Regulations governing the handling of used oils stipulate that used oils are not to mixed with other products, e.g. substances containing halogen. Non-compliance will increase disposal costs. Comply with the national legal provisions concerning the disposal of the corresponding hydraulic fluid. Comply with the local safety data sheet of the lubricant manufacturer for the country concerned.

6 Glossary

Additivation

Additives are chemical substances added to the basic fluids to achieve or improve specific properties.

Aging

Hydraulic fluids age due to oxidation (see chapter 3.1.5 "Aging resistance"). Liquid and solid contamination acts as a catalyzer for aging, meaning that it needs to be minimized as far as possible by careful filtration. Please refer to Hydrolysis.

Arrhenius equation

The quantitative relation between reaction rate and temperature is described by an exponential function, the Arrhenius equation. This function is usually visualized within the typical temperature range of the hydraulic system. For a practical example, see chapter 3.1.5 "Aging resistance".

Basic fluids

In general, a hydraulic fluid is made up of a basic fluid, or base oil, and chemical substances, the so-called additives. The proportion of basic fluid is generally greater than 90%.

Diesel effect

If hydraulic fluid that contains air bubbles is compressed quickly, the bubbles are heated to such a degree that a self-ignition of the air-gas mix may occur. The resultant temperature increase may lead to seal damage and increased aging of the hydraulic fluid.

Partially saturated esters

In contrast to saturated esters, partially saturated esters have double/multiple bonds between C atoms. Rexroth defines partially saturated esters as unsaturated bonds and mixtures of esters with unsaturated and saturated bonds. Esters with unsaturated bonds are produced on the basis of renewable raw materials.

Depending on their number and position, these unsaturated bonds between the C atoms are instable. These bonds can detach themselves and form new bonds, thus changing the properties of those liquids (an aging mechanism). Attention is however drawn to the note in chapter 1.3.

Hydrolysis

Hydrolysis is the splitting of a chemical bond through the reaction with water under the influence of temperature.

ICP (atomic emission spectroscopy)

The ICP procedure can be used to determine various wear metals, contamination types and additives. Practically all elements in the periodic system can be detected with this method.

Iodine count

The iodine count is a yardstick for the quantity of single and multiple unsaturated bonds between C atoms in the basic fluid. A low iodine count indicates that the hydraulic fluid contains few unsaturated bonds and is thus considerably more resistant to aging than a hydraulic fluid with a high iodine count. A statement about the position at which these multiple bonds are located and about how "stable" they are against influencing factors cannot be derived simply by stating the iodine count.

Karl Fischer method

Method to determine the water content in fluids. Indirect coulometric determination procedure in accordance with DIN EN ISO 12937 in connection with DIN 51777-2. Only the combination of both standards will assure adequately accurate measured values. For hydraulic fluids based on glycol, DIN EN ISO 12937 is to be applied in conjunction with DIN 51777-1.

Cavitation

Cavitation is the creation of cavities in fluids due to pressure reduction below the saturated vapour pressure and subsequent implosion when the pressure increases. When the cavities implode, extremely high acceleration, temperatures and pressure may occur temporarily, which may damage the component surfaces.

Neutralization number (NN)

The neutralization number (NN) or acid number (AN) specifies the amount of caustic potash required to neutralize the acid contained in one gram of fluid.

Pour point

The lowest temperature at which the fluid still just flows when cooled down under set conditions. The pour point is specified in the lubricant manufacturers' technical data sheets as a reference value for achieving this flow limit.

RFA (wavelength dispersive x-ray fluorescence analysis)

Is a procedure to determine nearly all elements in liquid and solid samples with nearly any composition. This analysis method is suitable for examining additives and contamination, delivering fast results.

Shearing/shear loss

Shearing of molecule chains during operation can change the viscosity of hydraulic fluids with long chain VI enhancers and anti-fogging additives. The initially high viscosity index drops. This needs to be taken into account when selecting the hydraulic fluid.

The only value at present that can be used to assess viscosity changes in operation is the result of the test in accordance with DIN 51350 part -6. Please note that there are practical applications that create a much higher shear load on such hydraulic fluids than can be achieved by this test.

Viscosity

Viscosity is the measure of the internal friction of a fluid to flow. It is defined as the property of a substance to flow under tension. Viscosity is the most important characteristic for describing the load-bearing capacity of a hydraulic fluid.

Kinematic viscosity is the ratio of the dynamic viscosity and the density of the fluid; the unit is mm²/s. Hydraulic fluids are classified by their kinematic viscosity into ISO viscosity classes. The reference temperature for this is 40 °C.

Viscosity index (VI)

Refers to the viscosity temperature behavior of a fluid. The lower the change of viscosity in relation to the temperature, the higher the VI.

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It must be remembered that our products are subject to a natural process of wear and aging.

Subject to change.