

MAHLE piston rings for flex-fuel engines

Stuttgart, Germany, September 2007 — The stricter emissions limits imposed by legislators as well as the pursuit for less dependence on crude oil-based fuels accelerate the development of alternative fuels. One promising alternative is so-called flex-fuel engines. In North America, South America, and also in Europe, these engines are already in series production. In Brazil, already more than 90 percent of all registered vehicles are equipped with flex-fuel engines and more than 80 percent of them are equipped with MAHLE piston ring packs.

The use of flex fuels demands higher wear resistance and greater seizure resistance from the piston rings. Thanks to a low-friction design, MAHLE piston ring packs are less abrasive to the cylinder running surfaces and thus enable finer honing of the running surface.

For varied conditions with different fuel mixtures, MAHLE relies on PVD (Physical Vapor Deposition) technology. For more than ten years, MAHLE has studied PVD piston rings, producing them in series since 2005. This technology has proven to be the best alternative for wear-resistant and low-friction piston rings. Through this know-how, MAHLE always offers its customers the best solution.

The MAHLE Group is one of the 30 largest automotive suppliers worldwide. As the leading manufacturer of components and systems for the internal combustion engine and its peripherals, MAHLE is among the top 3 systems suppliers for piston systems, cylinder components, valve train systems, air management systems, and liquid management systems. With more than 40,000 employees in 110 production plants and seven research and development centers, MAHLE generated sales in excess of EUR 4.3 billion (USD 5.8 billion) in 2006.

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