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- What automatic Transmission fluid should I use?

SP-II ATF has been used as a factory fill for Hyundai automatic transaxles since the production dates shown below. Previously, type 7176 ATF was used as a factory fill.

VEHICLE EFFECTIVE DATE

Accent, Elantra 9/16/95

Sonata 2.0L and 3.0L 9/23/95

Tiburon ALL

SP-II is blended to a different specification than type 7176. It has a different additive package and was designed to give ideal friction characteristics to the new transaxles used by Hyundai. The benefits of SP-II are:

- The low temperature shifting characteristics of the transaxle have been improved, due to the low temperature characteristics of SP-II.
- The chemical stability and oxidation resistance of SP-II has been improved, which allows a longer maintenance interval.

MAINTENANCE INTERVAL:

The maintenance interval for the ATF and the filter has been changed as follows:

PREVIOUS 1986-95 TYPE 7176

Normal useage Replace at 30,000 miles/24 months

Severe useage Replace at 15,000 miles/10 months

NEW 1996-99 SP-11

Normal Usage Inspect fluid every 7,500 miles/6 months

Severe useage Replace at 30,000 miles

Severe Usage is defined below:

- Repeated short distance driving.
- Driving in dusty, rough or sandy areas.
- Driving in mountainous areas.
- Extensive idling.
- More than 50% driving in heavy city traffic during hot weather above 90°F (32°C).
- Driving in areas where salt or other corrosive materials are used.

- Driving in very cold weather.
- Towing a trailer.

NOTE

The previous ATF is no longer available from the Hyundai Parts System. Only SP-II ATF will be provided to Hyundai dealers in quart bottles.

INTERCHANGEABILITY:

For 1996-99 vehicles, use only SP-II ATF.

For 1986-95 vehicles, use either type 7176 or SP-II ATF. Type 7176 and SP-II ATF can be mixed in any proportion. If type 7176 ATF is used, or type 7176 and SP-II ATF are mixed, the previous maintenance interval must be followed.

The 2001 Hyundai Shop Manuals specify "SP-II-M" automatic transaxle fluid (ATF) for use in automatic transaxles; however, "SP-III" ATF has been installed in all 2001 model year Hyundai vehicles beginning in July, 2000. SP-III is a new ATF formulation that provides the following improvements to SP-II and SP-II-M:

Improved low temperature viscosity

Improved friction modifier additives to provide superior shift quality

Currently, only SP-II (P/N 00230-18000) is available to your dealership. SP-III will be made available later this year. SP-II has most of the benefits of SP-II-M and SP-III, including good low temperature viscosity and oxidation resistance for long life of the ATF. No durability or shift quality conditions will occur if SP-II is used on 2001 vehicles. SP-II and SP-III are compatible and can be mixed in any proportion; however if more than 10% SP-II is mixed with SP-III, the benefits of SP-III will be reduced.

The ATF maintenance interval has not changed from the previous SP-II interval.

NOTE

Severe usage includes:

- Repeated short distance driving
- Extensive idling
- More than 50% driving in heavy city traffic during hot weather above 90°F (32°C)

- Driving in very cold weather
- Towing a trailer
- Driving in mountainous areas

SERVICE INFORMATION:

Both SPII and SPIII have a red color when new; however, the ATF may change color to a dark brown after 10,000 to 25,000miles in service. According to the manufacturer of SPII and SPIII,this color change is normal for this type of ATF and does not indicatean internal transaxle condition.

NOTE

To diagnose for the presence of an internal transaxle condition, follow the troubleshooting diagnosis in the appropriateshop manual or ATM Diagnosis Worksheet.