



Transaqua™ HT

Water-based subsea production control fluid

Description

Castrol Transaqua™ HT is a water-based hydraulic control fluid specifically formulated for use as the control medium in subsea production control systems. The fluid incorporates all the features required for operation throughout the control system including Sub Surface Safety Valves (SSSV) and intelligent well completions.

Transaqua HT has been developed and qualified under a Quality Management System with ISO 9001 Certification for Research and Development.

Qualification testing carried out in accordance with ISO 13628-6 Annex C (2006 E) requirements.

Application

- Designed for use in all conventional and high pressure, high temperature applications (according to API 17 TR8).
- Can operate over a temperature range of -30°C (-22°F) to 170°C (338°F).
- Passed ISO 13628-6 Annex C (2006 E)/API 17F TR8 testing at 170°C (338°F)
- Track record of use in subsea production control systems at temperatures up to 170°C (338°F)
- Tested to 180°C (356°F) in SSSV Equipment to OTO 99 001
- Suitable for use within Electro-Hydraulic Multiplex (EH-Mux) or direct hydraulic control systems.
- Designed for use throughout the entire production and workover control systems, covering Topsides and Subsea applications: both open water and well bore; and Downhole from control of a single SSSV through to complex intelligent well completions.

Advantages

- Tested according to OSPAR requirements. Rigorous environmental testing has also been completed in many geographies worldwide.
- Contains a fluorescent leak tracer to allow rapid detection of subsea leaks either visually or using a dedicated ROV mountable leak detection sensor.
- Maintains corrosion performance with seawater contamination.
- Tolerant of the high well temperatures encountered by those parts of the control system located at the well bore.
- Fully compatible and miscible in all proportions with other products in the Castrol Transaqua range and most other water-based subsea control fluids.
- Compatible with a wide range of materials commonly used in subsea control systems (see Tables 3 & 4). More detailed compatibility information is available on request.

Typical Physical Characteristics

Table 1							
Fluid - Castrol Transaqua HT Rheology @ Ambient Pressure							
Property	@ units	-25°C (-13°F)	0°C (32°F)	20°C (68°F)	40°C (104°F)	100°C (212°F)	175°C (347°F)
Density	g/ml	1.0880	1.0741	1.0630	1.0519	1.0186	0.9770
	lb/ft³	67.92	67.05	66.36	65.67	63.59	60.99
Viscosity	mm²/s	29.18	8.17	3.95	2.25	0.74	0.34
Bulk Modulus	N/m² (x 10 ⁹)	2.75	2.74	2.70	2.64	2.29	1.52
	psi (x 10 ⁵)	3.99	3.98	3.92	3.83	3.33	2.20
General Properties							
Property	Code		Units	Typical Value			
Appearance				Clear mobile fluid			
Colour				Fluorescent yellow green			
Pour Point	ISO 3016 / ASTM D97		°C (°F)	-39 (-38.2)			
Flash Point - open cup method	ISO 2592 / ASTM D92		°C (°F)	N/A as water based			
pH @ 20°C (68°F)				8.9			
Acid Number	ISO 6619 / ASTM D664		mg KOH/g	2.6			
Base Number	ISO 3771 / ASTM D2896		mg KOH/g	15.2			
Coefficient of Thermal Expansion	ASTM D1903		°C ⁻¹	0.00052			
Thermal Conductivity	ASTM D2717		W/m°C	0.42			
Specific Heat	ASTM D2766		kJ/Kg°C	3.257			
Foam Sequence 1 - tendency / stability	ISO 6247 / ASTM D892		ml / ml	300 / 0			
Particulate Cleanliness	SAE AS4059F			Class 6			

The above figures are typical of those obtained with normal production tolerance and do not constitute a specification. Detailed Pressure/Viscosity/Temperature (PVT) data available on request.

Table 2			
Fluid - Castrol Transaqua HT			
Typical performance Characteristics			
Property		Code	Performance
Seawater Stability		ISO 13628-6 Annex C (2006 E)	Stable with up to 10% seawater contamination. Provides anti corrosion performance on carbon steel with up to 10% seawater.
Lubrication Shell 4 Ball - Mean Wear Scar Diameter (1hr, 30kg, 1460 rpm)		IP239	0.958 mm.
Environmental Performance		OSPAR Requirements	Tested according to OSPAR requirements - all components tested for toxicity (4 species), biodegradation and bioaccumulation.
Compatibility	Metals	ISO 13628-6 Annex C (2006 E)	Compatible with a wide range of metals. For a core set of commonly used metals see Table 3.
	Elastomers/Plastics	ISO 13628-6 Annex C (2006 E)	Compatible with a wide range of elastomers/plastics. For a core set of commonly used components see Table 4.
	Umbilical Testing	API 17E	3 month compatibility testing completed successfully.
Valve Testing	DCV	OEM specific	Qualified by a number of leading DCV manufacturers.
	SSSV	OEM specific & OTO99001	Qualified by a number of leading SSSV manufacturers.

For a more extensive list of tested materials and detailed information on testing contact Castrol.

Table 3		
Fluid - Castrol Transaqua HT Metal Compatibility		
Material	Compatibility	Comments
Mild Steel A105	Compatible	Unprotected carbon steel above the fluid surface may be subject to corrosion from condensed moisture.
Alloy Steel 4140	Compatible	
Alloy Steel 440C	Compatible	
Stainless Steel 316	Compatible	
Stainless Steel 17-4PH	Compatible	
Nitronic 60	Compatible	
Monel 400	Compatible	
Nickel 200	Compatible	
Inconel 825	Compatible	
Super Duplex 2507	Compatible	
Aluminium Bronze (CDA945)	Compatible	
Tungsten Carbide - 10% Cobalt Bonded	Compatible	This material had been used in both solid sintered form and as a spray coating. It has been widely recognised that some corrosion can take place with water based control fluids due to the leeching of the Cobalt binder. With sufficient component section size this is not an issue, but if components are small then some review of the suitability should be carried out. Thin coatings are not recommended. The additions of Nickel and Chromium can greatly improve the compatibility.
Tungsten Carbide - 9% Nickel Bonded	Compatible	
Aluminium	Limited compatibility	Components may be protected by hard anodizing. Avoid rubbing contact.
Electroless Nickel Plating	Compatible	Ensure even plating thickness.
Zinc and Cadmium Plating	Not compatible	Commonly used on standard industrial hydraulic components. Will be removed over time by water based control fluids.

Castrol Transaqua HT is compatible with many materials commonly used in the construction of modern production subsea control systems. As with any fluid a complete materials review should always be carried out before using Castrol Transaqua HT.

Metals to be avoided

The following metals are best avoided with all glycol water-based fluids: Aluminium, Cadmium, Magnesium and Zinc. For coating compatibility data please contact Castrol.

Table 4		
Fluid - Castrol Transaqua HT Elastomer and Plastic Compatibility		
Material	Compatibility	Comments
Nitrile (NBR)	Compatible	Widely used as a standard seal material. Performance can vary according to grade.
Hydrogenated Nitrile (HNBR)	Compatible	Better high temperature performance than Nitrile. Not recommended for temperatures above 120°C.
Low Permeability Nitrile	Compatible	
Fluorocarbon (FKM-Viton)	Compatible	Performance can vary according to grade. Not recommended for temperatures above 90°C.
PTFE	Compatible	Very inert, and suitable for high temperature and pressure applications.
PEEK	Compatible	Very inert, and suitable for high temperature and pressure applications.
Perfluoroelastomer (FFKM - Chemraz)	Compatible	Suitable for extreme temperature applications. But can suffer from creep.
Polyurethane	Compatible	Good resistance to abrasion. Performance can vary with grade.
Ethylene Propylene (EPDM)	Compatible	Good compatibility with water based fluids, and at elevated temperatures. Important - EPR is not suitable for use with any hydrocarbon based fluids or greases.
Nylon 11	Compatible	Tested to API 17 E .
Silicone	Compatible	Poor mechanical properties, but wide temperature range.

The data reported in Table 4 refer to "standard" compounds recognised by industry. However, performance can vary depending on manufacturer, grade or operational conditions, e.g. manufacturing process, filler materials used in compounds, application, extreme temperatures, etc. We therefore recommend clarification or further testing is sought regarding project specific material compatibility, from either the seal vendor or Castrol.

Seal Materials to be Avoided

Rubber Impregnated Fabric Composites are not compatible with Castrol Transaqua HT. These materials must be changed out from equipment to be used with Castrol Transaqua HT.

Painted and other Surface Coatings

It is recommended that in accordance with good working practice the internal surface of the hydraulic system should not be coated. However, external surfaces may require coating and as with all control fluids conventional paint systems will tend to soften or strip. It is therefore recommended that these be replaced by cured epoxy, nylon, or Phenolic types as commonly used subsea. Surface preparation prior to paint application is critical.

Where it is necessary to use internal surface coatings such as PTFE these should be assessed for suitability of use. Manufacturers guidelines should be observed with regards cure times and temperatures and as with paints systems surface preparation specifications should be adhered to.

Care and Handling

This product has been manufactured to a tightly controlled cleanliness specification. Any container that has been opened for use must be re-sealed to avoid contamination ingress from the environment (eg particulates or water). Any contaminants entering the product can affect its performance. The integrity of the product once the container is opened is the responsibility of the end user. It is good practice to use tarpaulins or drum lids to cover all containers to prevent ingress of contamination.

As with all glycol based control fluids, Castrol Transaqua HT must never be mixed with control fluids of different base types such as synthetic fluids (e.g. Castrol Brayco Micronic SV/3) or mineral oils (such as the Castrol Hyspin range). Contamination of Castrol Transaqua HT by either of these types of products can seriously affect the product performance.

If you need advice on any of the above, please contact your local Castrol Technical Service Engineer for more specific details.

Storage

All containers should be stored under cover and protected from exposure to direct sunlight. Do not store containers in temperatures below minus 5°C or above 45°C. 208L plastic drums can be stored a maximum of 2 high, providing a pallet is used to distribute the upper load evenly. In addition, the fill level of the upper drums should be less than or equal to the fill level of the lower drums. It is not recommended to store 208L plastic drums horizontally.

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