

ReMade in Italy



Marco Codognola, *General Manager, Viscolube*



Viscolube is the Italian market leader and one of the main European operators in the regeneration of waste oils. Viscolube also operates in two other different businesses: the collection of industrial hazardous waste (Viscoambiente) and the industrial waste solvent recovery and valorization (Bitolea). Viscolube has the capacity to treat 190,000 t/y of waste oil through two production plants. The Company produces more than 125,000 t/y of re-refined base oil and 23.000 t/y of bitumen. Viscoambiente manages 170.000 t/y of industrial waste, mainly hazardous, from collection to final disposal and Bitolea collects 90.000 t/y of used solvent, recovering almost 60%.

Thanks to a consolidated re-refining process which is continuously upgraded in order to fit the different used oil compositions, Viscolube regenerated base oils Group I+ and Group II+ present identical properties and sometimes even better than those produced with first refining lubricating bases. They are used in different applications, either in the automotive or industrial sector. In addition to this Viscolube regenerated base oils are green and are traceable. This is one of the reasons why Viscolube decided to go beyond its technological excellence and obtain the product's third party environmental certification (ReMade in Italy). The regeneration

process, in fact, greatly reduces the impact on the environment, lowers the amount of raw material (crude oil) consumed, thereby cutting emissions produced in the extraction phase, transportation and refining.

ReMade in Italy is an independent product environmental certification that assesses the recycled material content of a final or semi-manufactured product. It certifies the traceability of the production process in the various phases of the supply chain, starting from the analysis of the incoming raw material, up to the certified finished product.

This certification is consistent with the requirement of the Italian law (221/2015) that regulates Green Public Procurement (GPP) and it can be released only by an independent entity which needs to be accredited and approved. Viscolube's production process has been analyzed and certified by competent and qualified independent auditors which have checked the whole production cycle: the origin of the used lubricants, the selection and approval of the feedstock, the regeneration process and the final product quality control. Viscolube adopts its patented process to regenerate base oils and it has licensed it to several plants throughout the world.

As a result of the certification process, a label has been released for each regenerated base oil produced, highlighting the percentage of regenerated material together with the assignment of a specific category, according to the amount. Viscolube base oils contain 100% of regenerated material content and therefore they are given class A+.

The label shows also the savings achievable with the use of the specific labelled product in terms of climate change, emissions and electricity consumption, compared to virgin product use. A great opportunity exists to vehicle these environmental advantages along the value chain up to the final consumer, with a view to increase the sustainability of lubricants.

Certain public procurement schemes include minimum environmental criteria to be fulfilled in order to supply product to the public sector, as well as valuation criteria which attributes higher scores to recycled certified products. As an example the 2008 decree (DM 8/5/12) of the Ministry of Environment, states that each tender issued by the public administrations to procure products or services related to public transport, requires the use of engine lubricants with low viscosity, certified regenerated lubricants or products that comply with the ecological criteria of Ecolabel following the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) requested by the Community policies. The burden of proof is requested by each minimum environmental criteria so ReMade in Italy certification complies with the requirements of the Italian Public Procurement Code as the Italian law and it is stated as probative requirements in public administration orders. "Apart from the technological excellence that has always characterized Viscolube," says Marco Codognola, General Manager of Viscolube, "we decided to take a fundamental step towards promoting environmental awareness along the whole supply chain, carrying out a certification process of our regenerated bases."

Viscolube regenerated base oil is an example of circularity which is completed by a certification that allows the product to be inserted into the market of green public procurement, making the whole supply chain green.

LINK
www.viscolube.it