

CEC reorganization

Additional role for CONCAWE

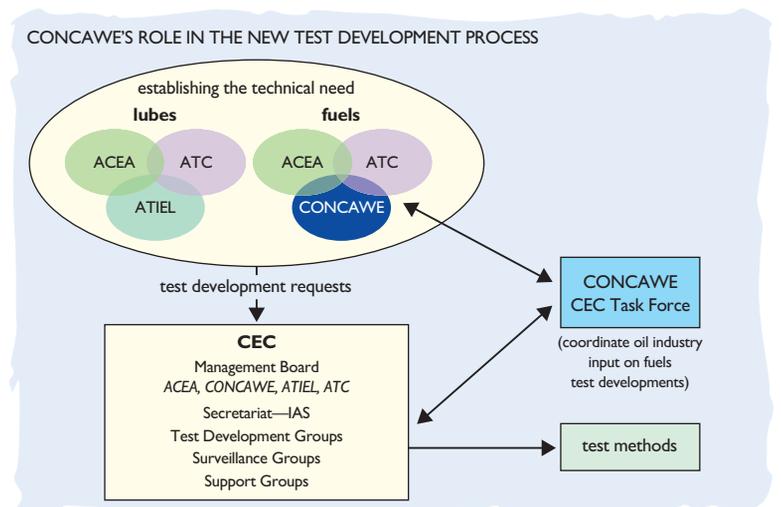
The Coordinating European Council (CEC) is the inter-industry body in charge of developing standardized European performance tests for fuels and lubricants. A detailed review of CEC operations, carried out in response to industries' demands for a more efficient mechanism for European test developments, has resulted in a change of the structure of CEC from management by national industry bodies to management through European associations. Consequently, ACEA, ATIEL, ATC¹ and CONCAWE formed the Management Board of the new CEC in July 2001.

The core mission of CEC remains the same as the industry associations recognize the continuing need for such a standardization body. The new organization is expected to provide a more efficient European-focused forum for relevant test developments.

The new CEC has contracted Interlynk Administrative Services (IAS) to operate CEC's administration from an office based in the UK. CEC itself remains registered in Brussels. The first test development under the new CEC regime, a lubricant fuel economy longevity test, is already under way and has attracted an encouraging number of sponsors.

CONCAWE's role will be to coordinate the oil industry's input on fuels related issues and a new CONCAWE Task Force has been established for this purpose. In the new organization, the definition of the need for tests should be done outside CEC, so that CEC can focus specifically on test developments. To this end, CONCAWE will work with ACEA and ATC to establish the needs for fuels test developments. In the lubricants area, such a mechanism already exists via the 'AAA' forum (ACEA, ATC, ATIEL) and it is expected that a similar mechanism will be established to handle fuels issues. CONCAWE's expectation on the future mode of operation is shown below.

Over the coming months, the new CEC management team will review the existing CEC working groups and determine how best to proceed across the range of activities. In the meantime, the Chairmen of the existing working groups have been requested to continue with their current tasks. Although a lot of work remains to be done to complete the transition to an effective new CEC organization, CONCAWE welcomes the challenge and is looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with the other industry association partners and IAS in establishing the new CEC.



¹ ACEA is the Association des Constructeurs Européens d'Automobiles; ATIEL is the Association Technique de l'Industrie Européenne des Lubrifiants; and ATC is the Technical Committee of Petroleum Additive Manufacturers in Europe.