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Technical Bulletin

VAG Timing System Replacement Intervals

GATES REFERENCE:	Various.	
MAKE:	AUDI, SEAT, SKODA, VOLKSWAGEN	
MODEL:	All	
ENGINE:	All	
ENGINE CODE:	All	

Over the past months and years, we have seen many changes in the timing belt replacement intervals recommended by the different makes belonging to the Volkswagen group, so we have therefore prepared an overview of the current situation.

Gates has for many years been promoting the simultaneous replacement of belts, tensioners and idlers, thus ensuring a complete overhaul of the drive system, resulting in trouble free performance for another service period.

We notice that also the car manufacturers are now considering this 'good practise', and that they are offering OES kits for full timing system replacement. They have started including the replacement of the tensioners also in their service recommendations. This is as well the case for VAG, so these data are included in the attached files.

Please note that these replacement intervals are the OE recommendations for the maximum mileage of the drive.

A quicker change can be required when the car is used in adverse conditions, such as very sporty driving, extreme temperatures (*), sand and gravel, running a lot on idle speed (taxis, delivery vans etc), frequent stops, always driving short distances, etc. VAG therefore advises to check the condition of the components at every major service.

Do remember that the engine needs to be at room temperature before installation, and precise follow up of the OE installation recommendations is strongly advised.

We also recommend that you always check the latest OE information on replacement intervals.

For a correct identification of Gates Belts and Kits related to the VAG engines, please consult our web catalogue at www.gatesautocat.com

See also Technical Bulletin # 002, 007, 010, 011, and 012 for further information on specific VAG models.

(*) e.g. For prolonged exposure to temperatures above 26 °C or below -6 °C, the change interval is reduced from 5 to 4 years.

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