Worldwide Automotive Air-Intake Filters

Description: This report is focusing on new developments based on synthetic media, on cellulose/meltblown composites, on the new Power Core™ material from DONALDSON, a new generation of unique needled felts and other materials currently being used for air-intake filters for automotive applications worldwide. In addition we have addressed the ‘conventional market of ‘cellulose’ filter media.

The market segment - synthetic/composite nonwovens - currently represents approximately $. 165 million for such filter media worldwide.

We believe that synthetic and other unique media – although more expensive than cellulose paper – will eventually prevail because of their characteristics not available from cellulose/wetlaid materials including longer life-greater dirt holding capacity – less space ‘under-the-hood’ of sexy modern cars and less sensitivity to moisture, temperature and vibration may shift the use of such filter media into the main stream. It may take 5-10 years before that happens.

Even those markets like North America and Europe basically have not used anything but cellulose paper are slowly moving towards other solutions. In this report we have reflected those changes, have tried to be specific whenever possible and have also included a our forecast - 2007 - 2012 - although there is a tremendous amount of uncertainty because it takes normally 1 or possibly even 2 years before any particular media concept is checked, tested, approved and finally released for any given platform.

It is safe to say that, “nanofiber technology” moved into the foreground. We are aware of most developments but we believe that ‘nanofiber’ will penetrate into all segments of filtration including ‘air-intake’ filters for cars and trucks. We have addressed some of these developments and we truly believe that ‘nanofiber’ will continue to play a major roll in years to come.

We are following developments constantly but may have over looked a few ‘new filter concepts’. The extreme cost conscious and mostly conservative automotive industries is not necessarily ‘progressive’ towards new ideas. It takes time to introduce a ‘new’ concept, particularly if it cost more than the part it replaces. Patients, reputation, constant improvements, cost reduction and productivity gains are the key for any successful filter/filter media supplier.

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1. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION on detailed cellulose fiber use of major filter media manufacturer from our 2003 report.
2. MATERIAS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN ENGINE AIR FILTRATION MEDIA.
3. Some cross section photos of 'cellulose' media.
4. PASSENGER CARS PER 1000 INHABITANTS.
5. ENGINE AIR INDUCTION FILTERS (Competitive evaluation and design factors.)
6. Automotive Nonwoven Filter Media : Their constructions and filter mechanisms.
7. The behavior of I.C. Engine Intake Air Filters under dynamic load.
8. High Performance Nanofiber coated Filter Media for Engine Intake Air Filters.

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