

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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PROFESSIONAL

P R O F E S S I O N A L P R O D U C T S

MiniDV Compatibility

Regarding compatibility issues pertaining to the differences between MiniDV Lubricants:

MiniDV tapes use Fluorine based lubricants, and there can be significant differences in their molecular structure. These structures are very stable and do not normally react, chemically, with each other when mixed. Our MiniDV lubricant is similar to the Panasonic product and in normal use, mixing brands of tape should not cause any problems.

However, the issue is especially unpredictable when the lubricants become contaminated with various foreign substances that can emerge within tape transports, and are subsequently chemically/physically altered from their original formulation.

This can easily occur anywhere along the tape path, within a tape transport, where a deposit of some type of debris accumulates and assimilates some of the lubricant from the surface of the tape. This produces an amalgam of debris and lubricant and when another lubricant formulation is introduced, apparently can create a new concoction.

Logically, there is a possibility that a complication will develop when different types of contaminated lubricants are allowed to mingle together, but currently, we have no test data to substantiate this issue.

The best way to prevent this condition is to ensure the tape transports are cleaned thoroughly and often.

Should you have any further questions, please contact your Sales Representative or George McBride, in Engineering, at (303) 662-8991 or (800) 634-9366 Ext. 5927.