

# DRILLING & WELL PERFORMANCE

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CPTC  
2202 Oil Center Court  
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Publisher  
Dave Wagner

TEAM LEADER/EDITOR  
Craig Gardner

Co-Editors, Design & Production  
Debbi Ferguson  
Teresa Jean  
Betty Lundquist

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## WANT API CEMENT?

The question is not as simple as it appears. Do you mean cement that conforms to the API specification for well cement or cement produced by a company that holds the API monogram? These are not necessarily the same things. Let me explain.

API standards are voluntary and may be used by anyone desiring to do so. The following extract from the API Composite List of Licensed Companies sums it up:

"The API monogram is not a requirement of the API specification. That means any manufacturer can claim its product meets an API specification without monogramming the product. If you want a product monogrammed, you need to order it that way. Then, only those manufacturers who are licensed by API are allowed to mark their products with the API monogram.

When the API monogram, in conjunction with the manufacturer's license number actually appears on the product, it constitutes a warranty by the licensed manufacturer (licensee), to the American Petroleum Institute and to the purchaser of such equipment or materials, that it complies in every detail with the applicable standards and specification. No such warranty to API exists when the monogram does not appear."

Insisting on the monogram means the purchaser values this warranty of compliance from a manufacturer who participates in the API Quality Program. There is no recourse through the API for pursuing product non-compliance if the manufacturer is not licensed.

The latest composite list contains 43 licensed manufacturers of well cement worldwide. This is a reduction from 51 in 1993. API monogrammed cement is widely available in some areas but surprisingly lacking in others. For instance, there are no licensed manufacturers of API Class G cement in the United States. One of the reasons that manufacturers choose not to participate in the monogram program is a lack of operator insistence on monogrammed materials.

The API Subcommittee on Well Cements formed a manufacturers' advisory group in 1998 to investigate the reasons for declining participation in the monogram program. The group is exploring options including a beefed-up audit process and an optional enhanced monogram for cement. The enhanced program under discussion would allow a manufacturer to differentiate his product from the standard monogram by documenting consistent response of his cement with cementing additives.

I will assume the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Well Cement this summer and expect this issue to have a high priority. As operations personnel, your views on the importance of monogrammed cement are important and most welcome. After the Standardization Conference in June, I plan to send out a questionnaire soliciting your opinions. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me. ☺

Craig Gardner  
281-230-2676  
[caga@chevron.com](mailto:caga@chevron.com)