Over the recent months, Eaton’s customers have contacted us to consult on issues, which have now been linked to hydraulic fluid formulation. These issues are specific to yellow metals (brass/bronze) used in some piston pump and motor components. The most common indication of these problems is pre-mature degradation of high-pressure, hydraulic system performance and resulting overheating.

In the interest of customer support and education, we feel that it is appropriate to share some conclusions we have reached regarding these fluids related problems.

- Eaton does not recommend the use of some Universal Tractor Fluids (UTF) or Transmission Differential Hydraulic Oil (TDH), at this time, because of possible chemical reaction with these yellow metals. This reaction may be accelerated in the presence of water in the fluid, and/or high temperature.

- If you are successfully using any of these fluids at this time, we are not recommending a change. It is however, important to conduct a frequent analysis of the fluid, to monitor changes in the fluid’s copper(Cu) content, which may indicate a problem.

The industry continues to investigate this problem and as new information becomes available Eaton will provide the latest updates to our customers.