1957 - 1961 Corvette: Service Bulletin: Oil Consumption Complaints

Subject: Oil Consumption Complaints - 283 Cu. In. V-8 Engines
Model and Year: 1961
Source: Chevrolet Service Bulletin
Number: 22-20-61
Date: February 17, 1961
Zone: 22 Lousiville, Kentucky

To: ALL CHEVROLET DEALERS:

Attention - Service Manager

Should you receive any complaints from your customers on the 283 cu.in. V-8 Engine using an excessive amount of oil, the following procedure should be adhered to:

A. **DON'T INSTALL NEW PISTON RINGS!** Check the unit in the usual manner for leaks.
B. If circumstances are unusual, that is, you are not convinced the engine is actually using an excessive amount of oil after checking the smoking characteristics, get the owner to run an oil consumption test for about 1,000 miles, starting off with the oil reading at the "Full" mark on the stick and get the owner to check with you on any additions when at all possible. Be sure the engine is up to operating temperature and that no oil is added until the oil level is at the "Low" or "Add" mark.
C. If the oil consumption test convinces you that the engine is using an excessive amount of oil, make the necessary check to be sure the valve-stem oil seals are properly installed and effectively sealing.
D. If the above does not correct the condition, **GET IN TOUCH WITH THIS OFFICE.**

We bring this to your attention because from past experience we have found too many instances where piston rings were installed without appreciably changing the oil consumption. We want the customer taken care of, but we feel that when an engine is needlessly disassembled, customer goodwill could be lost.

Keep in mind that normal oil consumption, when using the specified MS-DG oil of proper weight, is anywhere from 700 to 1,200 miles per quart, under normal driving.

Online URL:
https://www.corvetteactioncenter.com/tech/knowledgebase/article/1957-1961-corvette-service-bulletin-oil-consumption-complaints-42.html