

**Date: 25.09.2014****Model: All models fitted with air conditioning****Number: 2014/08**

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Service Manager		Service Reception		Lotus Technicians		Parts Manager	
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TITLE:

Clarification of air conditioning compressor 'Running-In' Procedure.

REASON:

Investigation work carried out by Lotus Cars into air conditioning compressor failures has determined that insufficient lubrication is a major cause of compressor failure due to seizure of its internal components.

It is crucial to carry out a running in procedure to either a new or refitted compressor. This is to allow the oil to fully circulate around the air conditioning system before the compressor is put under any load and to allow sufficient oil to remain in the compressor sump for lubrication.

Insufficient lubrication will result in compressor failure due to seizure, reducing air conditioning performance and also generate diagnostic trouble codes.

ACTION:

When fitting a new compressor or in the event of a major failure which may have caused a significant amount of refrigerant oil to escape from the air conditioning circuit then the compressor running in procedure listed below should also be carried out after draining and refilling the compressor with the correct quantity of oil as shown in the HVAC sections of the relevant vehicle Service Notes.

Running in procedure:

1. Start the engine but DO NOT allow the engine speed to rise above idle.
2. Turn on the air conditioning system, (set temperature setting to maximum cold).
3. Ensure the engine speed does not rise above idle for a minimum of TWO minutes.
4. Monitor air conditioning performance and carry out any leak detection/system checks as per normal before refitting any ancillary components back onto the vehicle.

Carrying out this procedure allows the oil to fully circulate around the refrigerant circuit and compressor system before the compressor is put under any loading.

The HVAC sections of the service notes, Elise (PL), Evora (PN) and Exige S (PK) will be updated to include this compressor running in procedure.

CHARGES:

No warranty charges are associated with the compressor running in procedure shown in this bulletin.

Ends.

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