Air Filtration FAQs

Should I change my air filter element based on distance, time, appearance, or weight?
Air filters should be changed according to the engine manufacturer recommendation on air flow restriction as measured by an air filter restriction indicator gauge.

Does the efficiency of an air filter element change while it is being used?
Yes, air filter element efficiency changes over time. Air filters elements are least efficient when they are new. The built up of contaminants (dirt) on the media will make it more efficient over time.

What is the difference between Fleetguard standard air filters and Magnum air filters?
Magnum air filters have a larger surface area of filter media and will therefore hold more contaminants, resulting in a longer service life.

What is the meaning of the "M" suffix used on some air filters part numbers?
The "M" stands for Magnum, designating a long life element.

How often should I change my secondary air filter element?
Secondary or inner air elements should be changed every third time the primary (main/outer) element is changed. The secondary (safety/inner) element should not be disturbed until this interval has been reached.

What is Cummins Filtration’s recommended air filter element change interval?
Cummins Filtration recommends changing air filter elements when they have reached about 80% of the engine manufacturer's maximum allowable restriction. As a general guide, this ranges from 375 to 500 mm (15-20") of water gauge restriction for naturally aspirated engines and 500 to 700 mm (20-30") for turbocharged engines.

What is the micron rating of Fleetguard air filter elements?
The performance of air filter elements is measured by testing their ability to remove particles across a broad spectrum of particle sizes using standard test dust and reporting the results as the percentage efficiency for the given test dust.
What is the meaning of the "K" suffix used on some air filter part numbers?
The "K" denotes that the filter is equipped with fins. The fin provides pre-cleaning by centrifuging (spinning) out much of the contaminants before it reaches the air filter element. These elements are generally used in off-highway equipment, such as agriculture, construction and mining.

What is the Radial Seal Type air filter element?
Conventional air filter elements are generally held in place inside the air cleaner housing by a wing nut on a threaded centre post. The element is also sealed to the housing by compressing a rubber gasket, which is glued to the metal endplate, against the base place of the housing.
In the case of Radial Seal air filter elements, the sealing is created by pushing the moulded rubber (polyurethane) open end over a short tube built into the base of the air cleaner body. The filter is retained by the housing cover, secured against the closed upper endplate.

Why is grease supplied with each Radial Seal air filter element?
The grease should be applied to the sealing area (inside diameter for a primary/outer air filter element) to assist installation. Many Radial Seal Air Filters have a pre-greased sealing area. While removing a new filter element form its packaging, make sure you are not holding the filter at the sealing area, which will destroy the greasy film and cause difficulties to remove the filter from the air housing after use.

What is the advantage of a Radial Seal style air cleaner housing filter element compared to a more conventional air cleaner?
The major advantage of the Radial Seal type is the ease and speed of service. Generally, Radial Seal air filter elements can be changed without the need to use tools. The air cleaner usually twists off or is removed by undoing 'flip over' clips or catches allowing the element to be simply pulled off. Conventional housing often requires wings nuts to be undone before the element can be removed.

Can I use Radial Seal air filter elements in a standard (conventional) air cleaner housing?
No, the conventional air cleaner housings are not designed to create a complete seal with the Radial Seal air filters.

Can I use a conventional secondary/inner air filter element with a Radial Seal primary air filter and vice versa?
No. Conventional primary/outer air filters have to be used with conventional secondary/inner elements and housings. Radial Seal primary/outer air filters have to be used with Radial Seal secondary/inner elements and housings.

For more information about Air Filtration, please also see our brochure, LI33090GB, available on cumminsfiltration.com