

F3 Technical Advisory Memo

No: TAMF3-2020-008
Date: February 28, 2020
Subject: Seal Violation Penalties

Underlying Rules and Interpretation

Engines, transmissions, and shock absorbers are Type 1 parts, both as assemblies and in their component parts. In the FIA Technical Regulations, article 2.7.1 states that Type 1 parts must be “used exactly as supplied” and that “repairs may be carried out only by the manufacturer”. In the SCCA Pro Racing Sporting Regulations, article 26.1 states that “the entire car, as both an assembly and individual parts, must remain as delivered, except for changes expressly permitted in writing by SCCA Pro Racing”.

SCCA Pro Racing will interpret “repairs” to mean “repairs and service”. SCCA Pro Racing will also interpret that, in the context of repairs, “the manufacturer” will include “the series-authorized official service provider”.

Seal locations

Engine – Cam cover, turbo, oil pan, fuel pump, manifold-to-MAP sensor, oil pump front and rear
 Transmission – Rear cover, split at the final drive
 Shocks – Body-to-dust cap

Component changes

Engine changes require prior notification to SCCA Pro Racing, per SCCA Sporting Regulations 28.7.

Transmissions and shocks may be changed, provided that seal number(s) for the replacement component match the seal numbers furnished by the service provider for the serial number of the component.

Correct seal numbers

The correct seal numbers will be the most recent of the following:
 Seals present on the component at the end of the preceding season
 Seals installed by the manufacturer or authorized service provider
 Seals installed by SCCA Pro Racing

Inspection of Seals

Seals will be examined every time a car is inspected, whether annual, pre-event, post-session, or when confiscated. Damaged seals, missing seals, or incorrect seal numbers will be interpreted as either modification of Type 1 parts or as service by someone other than the approved service provider. On that basis, the car will be reported to the Stewards with a technical violation.



Penalties

Minimum penalties imposed by the Stewards for seal violations will be as follows.

The first time in a championship season that a car is reported to the Stewards for a seal violation, the reported driver and car will be permitted to participate in the Event, but will not have lap times recorded and will be reported as a DNF for the entire event. The driver will start from pit lane for the next three races following the violation.

The second time in a championship season that a car is reported for a seal violation, the reported driver and car will not be permitted to participate until the car is presented for inspection with components (engine, transmission, or shocks) properly sealed and confirmed by the service provider as compliant.

At their discretion, the Stewards or the Technical Director may also require inspection as specified in article 23.7 of the SCCA Sporting Regulations. The Stewards may also choose to impose additional penalties on drivers or teams.

Compliance

After any car is reported to the Stewards, it will be the team's responsibility to make it compliant before submitting for inspection again, using one of the three following methods:

- 1-Purchase of compliant and properly sealed components, whether new or used
- 2-Swap in compliant and properly sealed components from team inventory
- 3-Inspection, certification, and sealing by the authorized service provider

References

Engines – SCCA Sporting Regulations article 28

Transmissions – TAMF3-2020-006, FIA Technical Regulations 2.7.1, and SCCA Sporting Regulations 26.1

Shocks – TAMF3-2020-007, FIA Technical Regulations 2.7.1, and SCCA Sporting Regulations 26.1.

