



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

### OIL CONTAMINATION OF SENSORS

When replacing a Lambda sensor that has been diagnosed as being at fault, to avoid a repeat failure, take time to make further checks.

Engine oil leaks can cause electrical issues and affect the function of a Lambda sensor.

Although the outside of the connector may look dry, when unplugging the original Lambda sensor, carefully look inside the connector block for any oily residue, *however slight it might be*.

Vauxhall models are particularly affected by this at present and oil is either obviously present or less noticeable – requiring magnified inspection to detect.

The inside of the connector should be bone dry. Tests have shown contamination to any degree can affect sensor operation.

Leaking engine oil can *enter the vehicle wiring loom*. It then travels by capillary action under the PVC insulation of the individual wires. It passes through the connector block, inside the wires where it can disrupt the low voltage signals or eventually end up actually inside the sensor itself. The delicate sensing material is then contaminated and impairs operation.

- Sensor replacement without addressing the source of oil contamination invariably results in reoccurrence of the problem.

(Note: residual oil elsewhere in the vehicle wiring loom may still be liable to trigger a fault code).

