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Technical Bulletin

VAG 1.9 Diesel – Timing belts 5543XS and 5559XS

GATES REFERENCE :	5543XS and 5559XS
MAKE :	AUDI / SEAT / SKODA / VOLKSWAGEN
MODEL :	A3, Bora, Caddy, Cordoba, Fabia, Golf, Ibiza, Inca, Leon, New Beetle, Octavia, Polo, Toledo
MOTOR :	1.9 SDi / TDi
MOTOR CODE :	AYQ, AGP, AQM, AGR, ASY, ASV, ALH, AHF



Both belts 5543XS and 5559XS are recommended for the same engine types (AYQ, AGP, AQM, AGR, ASY, ASV, ALH, AHF) and also have the same dimensions (141 teeth x 25 mm wide). The breakpoint given in our catalogues is an engine number. Engines before the breakpoint use 5543XS, those after the breakpoint use 5559XS.

A lot of customers have problems finding this engine number (which usually can be found on a sticker on the top timing belt cover, and/or on the engine block near the oil filter), and ask what the difference is between these two belts, and whether they can use one belt instead of the other. The difference lies in the construction of the belts: the 5559XS is stronger than the 5543XS, because the injection pump used after the breakpoint is of a higher performance type, putting more load on the belt.

Up to the breakpoint some engines can be equipped with a plastic tensioner pulley; others have a metal tensioner pulley. After the breakpoint all engines have a metal tensioner pulley.

When no engine number is available, one can use our belt 5559XS instead of the 5543XS, but ONLY when one is certain the tensioner pulley is metallic, and not plastic!

The combination of our belt 5559XS and a plastic tensioner pulley would lead to severe premature tensioner pulley wear.

Conclusion:

- If metal tensioner pulleys are mounted and in case the engine number is not known, 5559XS can be used instead of 5543XS.
- Never replace belt 5559XS by 5543XS !