

Wise Guy Wednesday

Wise Guy 24-20: *Even the T3's Work !*

Q: I am registered for Certification judging in Kissimmee, this coming January. I am so pumped up,... and anxious! My Corvette has been cosmetically refreshed with new paint and a refreshed interior. I've been careful to make sure that all this was done just as it would have been when it left the factory. I'm reviewing the judging page for TECH and I am *concerned* because all my mechanicals are original and not rebuilt. My engine often will not start without a shot of starter fluid and then it will smoke a bit until it warms up. Once it is warmed up, it runs smoothly. *Is that ok?*



Even all the old T3 headlights work! But my headlight doors sometimes will not open / lift without a little help, but once they do the headlights operate just fine. **Is that ok? Tim**

A: T3 Tim, your engine having difficulty starting and then smoking would be considered a *deviation*, as well as the headlight doors not operating freely would be considered a *deviation*. Remember that Bloomington Gold judges review the car compared to how it left the factory – no better, no worse. A Corvette leaving the factory when new, would NOT have a smoking issue at startup, nor would it have headlight doors not operating. The guideline for Technical Operation is “Would the manufacturer typically allow the component to leave the factory this way?” If yes, it passes. If no, it fails. Again, the manufacturer, Chevrolet, would not allow a component (engine, headlight doors) to leave the factory as yours is currently behaving.

Tim, your issues may be easily corrected. Smoking at start up could be as simple as a carburetor adjustment. A local mechanic (who still knows what a carburetor is) might easily correct this. And you will enjoy a smoother performing ride! And headlight door not raising is typically a vacuum issue and can be very simple to correct with a local mechanic (cracked vac hoses, vacuum leaks, etc). And you'll enjoy night-time driving with two headlights up, once it's corrected!

Remember that all the operations items have to function as they did when your car left the factory, from the cigarette lighter to the windshield washer to the smooth starting and running.

Do the easy repairs and get all the TECH points at judging.

Any questions..... contact **Wise Guy** guy@bloomingtongold.com