

Oil condition sensor

Oil condition sensor

The oil condition sensor increases the function range of the thermal oil level sensor. The oil condition sensor measures the following variables:

- Engine oil temperature
- Oil level
- Engine oil quality

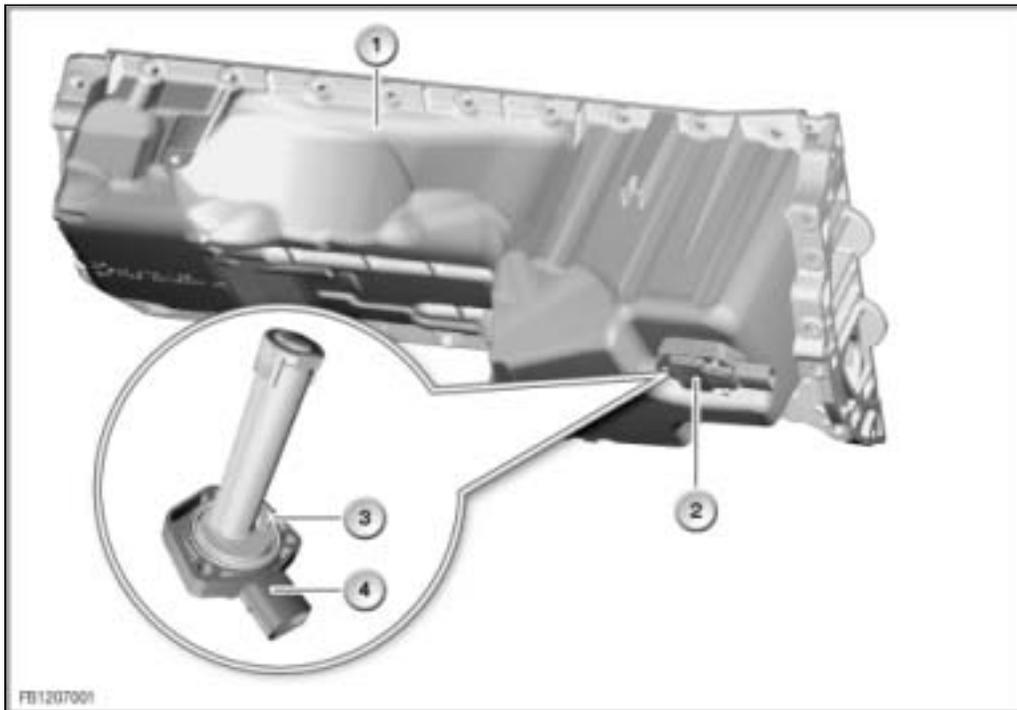
The engine management system evaluates these measurements. With the oil condition sensor, the electrical properties of the engine oil are also determined. These properties alter when the engine oil shows signs of degradation and ageing.

Brief description of components

The following components are described:

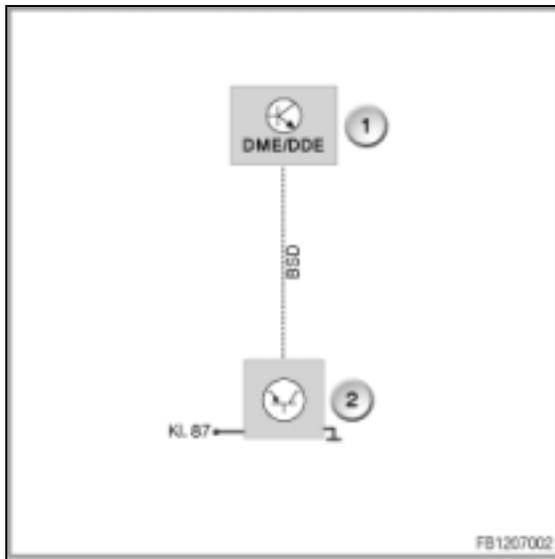
Oil condition sensor

The oil condition sensor is attached to the oil pan and is accessible from below. On all new engine types, there is no longer a dipstick. These engines have an electronic oil level check.



Index	Explanation	Index	Explanation
1	Oil pan	2	Oil condition sensor
3	temperature sensor	4	Plug-in connection

The oil condition sensor is connected via a bit-serial data interface to the engine management system. Power is supplied via terminal 87.



Index	Explanation	Index	Explanation
1	Engine control module	2	Oil condition sensor
BSD	Bit-serial data interface	Terminal 87	Power supply via DME or DDE main relay

System functions

The following system functions are described for the oil condition sensor:

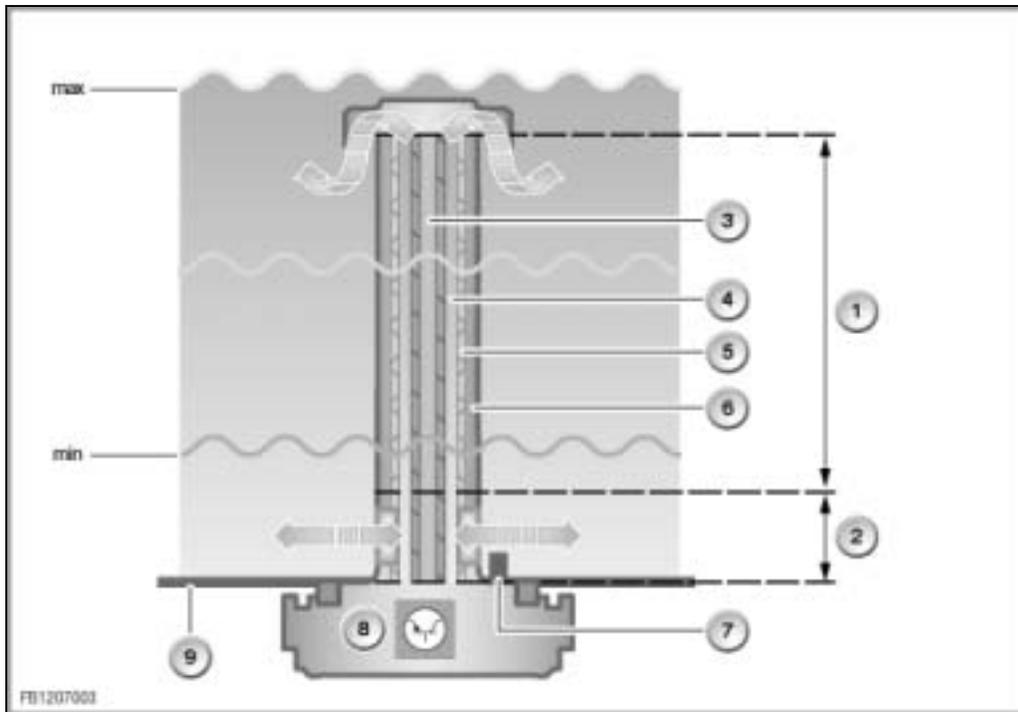
- Measuring method
- Electronic oil level control

Measuring method

The oil condition sensor consists of 2 cylindrical condensers. The condensers are mounted above one another. 2 metal tubes are inserted one into the other to serve as electrodes. The engine oil is used as a dielectric medium between the electrodes.

Note! Explanation of the terms 'dielectric' and 'permittivity'.

A dielectric is defined as a non-conductive material in an electrical field. The electrical field is split by an insulator. The permittivity (Latin: *permittere* = permit, let through) is also referred to as the dielectric conductance. The permittivity specifies the degree to which materials allow electrical fields to pass. The factor indicates by how much the voltage at a capacitor drops when a dielectric, non-conducting material is arranged between the capacitor plates.



Index	Explanation	Index	Explanation
1	Range for measurement of the oil level	2	Range for measurement of the oil quality
3	Inner capacitor	4	Dielectric (engine oil)
5	Outer capacitor	6	Housing
7	temperature sensor	8	Electronic evaluator
9	Oil pan		

The temperature sensor is seated on the housing of the oil condition sensor. The housing of the oil condition sensor contains an electronic evaluation unit. The electronic evaluation unit has self-diagnosis. A fault in the oil condition sensor is entered in the fault memory of the engine management system.

The oil condition sensor sends its measured values to the engine management system:

- Engine oil temperature
- Oil level
- Engine oil quality

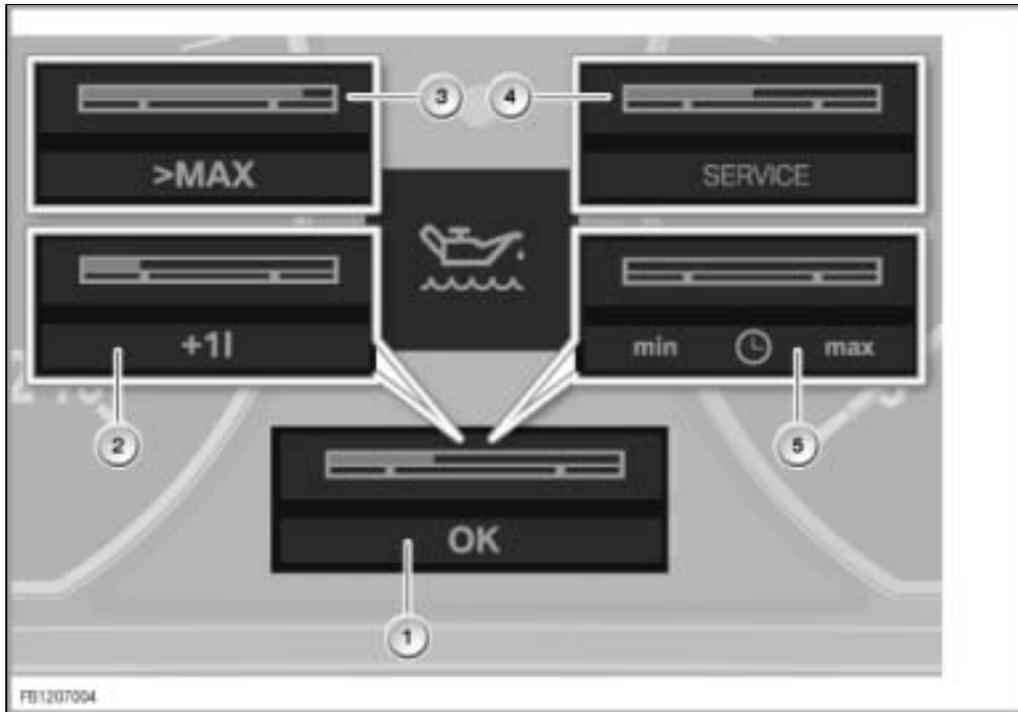
The electrical material properties of the engine oil change as the engine oil wears and ages. The changed electrical properties of the engine oil (dielectrics) cause the capacity of the capacitor to change.

The electronic evaluation unit converts the measured capacity into a digital signal. The digital sensor signal is sent to the engine management system. The engine management system uses the signal for internal calculations (e.g. condensate in the engine oil).

Electronic oil checking

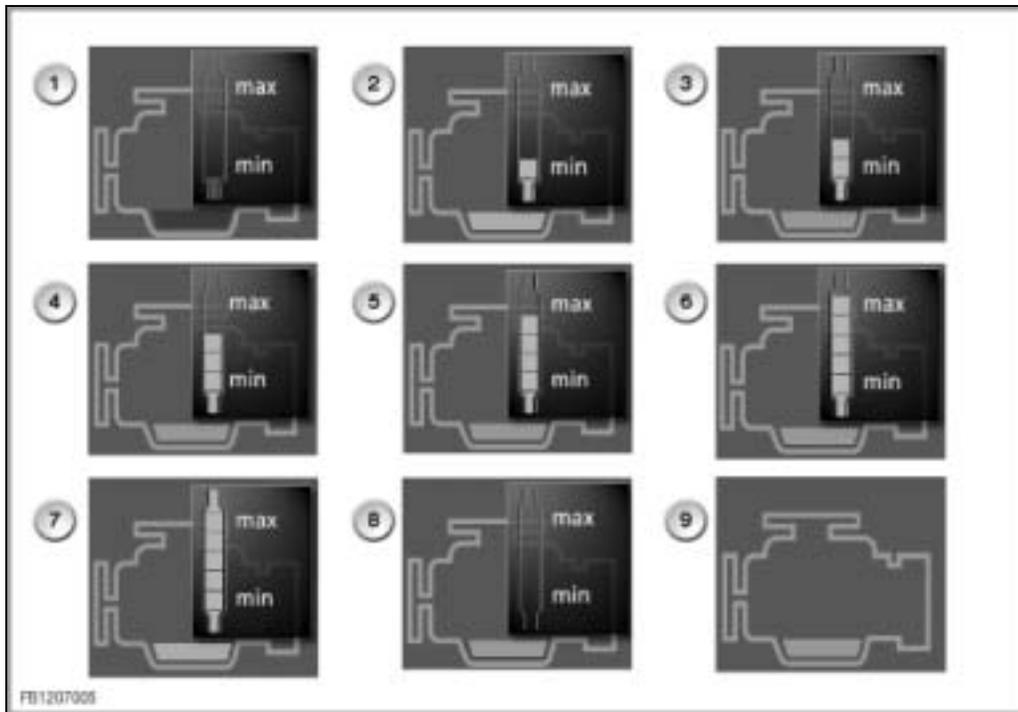
The oil level is measured for the electronic oil level check. The 2nd capacitor in the upper part of the oil condition

sensor registers the oil level with the engine running. The capacitor is at the same level as the oil level in the oil sump. As the oil level changes, the capacitance of the capacitor changes. The electronic evaluation unit creates a digital signal from this. The engine management system uses this to calculate the engine oil level. The electronic oil level check is displayed on the Central Information Display (CID) as well as in the instrument cluster. On vehicles without a CID, the oil level is only displayed in the instrument cluster.



Display options in the instrument cluster

Index	Explanation	Index	Explanation
1	Oil level OK	2	Oil level at minimum
3	Oil level too high	4	Oil condition sensor failure
5	Oil level is being determined		



Display options at the Central Information Display

Index	Explanation	Index	Explanation
1	Oil level below minimum (display red)	2	Oil level at minimum (display orange)
3	Oil level OK: 1/4 (display green)	4	Oil level OK: 1/2 (display green)
5	Oil level OK: 3/4 (display green)	6	Oil level OK: Maximum (display green)
7	Oil level above maximum: overfilled (display orange)	8	No measured value present: oil level is being measured
9	Sufficient oil in the engine for short-term engine start (service function on oil change)		

Notes for Service department

General information

Note: condensate in the engine oil.

Condensate that forms in the crankcase due to short distance driving can influence the permittivity. If the water is mixed in the engine oil, it also collects around the oil condition sensor.

If there is too much water in the crankcase:

In individual cases there can be an incorrect display of the oil level or a warning requesting that the oil be topped up.

This "false oil level warning" can be treated by means of a fault profile selection on the BMW diagnosis system, whereby the permittivity of the oil is also evaluated. However, there is no direct display of the permittivity. The permittivity depends on, among other things, the viscosity or age of the oil. This means that an appraisal of the quality is not ensured in every case.

Note: Please comply with instructions in Owner's Manual.

The display messages available for the electronic oil level check can be found in the Owner's Manual.

Diagnosis instructions

Note: after replacement or programming of the engine control module.

Initially, no oil level is saved. "Oil level under min" is then displayed. The correct oil level is only displayed after approx. 2 minutes of engine operation (engine at operating temperature, engine speed greater than 0, vehicle stationary).

Note: failure of the display.

If the instrument cluster or the Central Information Display fails:

The oil level can also be read out using the BMW diagnosis system.

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