

Technical bulletin - all CGRC Sigma-Graduates. ECU "maps" 24 April 2011

After our Silverstone races, it was brought to the attention of the club's Executive Committee that some of the older cars were running old ECU "maps" and that there was concern that there may be a resulting performance advantage - or disadvantage - in comparison to the latest version of the ECU "map". Accordingly, we asked Caterham Cars' Simon Lambert to attend at Snetterton on Friday 15th April to check out the ECU maps of the eight Sigma-Graduates that were competing that weekend. Simon found four versions on the eight cars!

When subsequently asked to comment on the map versions, Simon said:

"The firmware and software (map) of the Sigma engine has been revised in stages since its introduction to improve durability (particularly of the catalytic converter) and driveability, as well as resolve ongoing minor issues such as fouling of the plugs, which can have a larger effect on the engine's performance. The rev-limit is unchanged and the revisions made will not have interfered with power/torque curves enough for Caterham to have redefined the output of the engine. Since April 2010, the Sigma engine runs with level K firmware and revision 3 software – as installed on all Academy and Roadsport B cars. There are no planned changes for the Sigma calibration."

In light of this statement, to guarantee equivalence and eliminate any potential benefit - or disadvantage - from running previous versions of the ECU map, the CGRC Executive have unanimously resolved that all Sigma-Graduates ECUs must use only Caterham Cars' "Level K" firmware and "Revision 3" software when taking any part in any Sigma-Graduates championship events.

This is the most recent version of the software and is fully supported by Caterham. Older versions of the map are no longer supported, effectively determining that this is the software release that is made available, at no cost, to Sigma Graduates rather than any other older ECU software versions.

This change becomes compulsory through the use of para 5.4.6 of our championship regs:

"If at any time after publication of these Championship Regulations, a revision to the technical specifications is considered necessary by Executive Committee, all competitors will be required to comply with the revised specification. Competitors will be given at least 10 days notice to effect modifications."

ECUs can be updated by arrangement with Caterham Cars' Simon Lambert at their Dartford factory, either by sending the ECU there, or by taking a complete car there. Caterham Cars will advise the CGRC Exec Committee of which cars have, and have not, been updated. It might be possible, and convenient, to have this done at Dartford on the way to Brands on 12th May. Any car not reported to have been updated when next attending a championship event will be brought to the attention of the eligibility scrutineer who can be expected to take appropriate steps to prevent the car taking part. Competitors can expect random eligibility checks on ECU map status at any time throughout the season.

Nick Frost

Chairman, Caterham Graduates Racing Club

<http://www.graduates.org.uk>



Tel: 07768 540 848



Fax: 08707 059 165

e-mail: <mailto:chairman@graduates.org.uk>

School House

Hinton on the Green

Evesham

Worcs WR11 2QU

Caterham Graduates Racing Club Ltd

Registered address: Cherrybrook, 12 Lakeside, Irthlingborough, Northants NN9 5SW

Registered in England and Wales: No. 5114877

MSA recognized club no. 174665