

Wheels: A question from Stan says, “I have an Infinity G20, 1996, with 92,000 easy miles. The service people at Dayton’s Infinity dealer state that Infinity does not recommend fluid changes for this transmission (automatic). Why? The owner’s manual says nothing. It has me concerned. Any ideas? Thank you.”

Halderman: Thanks for writing. It is unusual for no recommended ATF changes but this has been the trend lately. Engineers tell me that the use of the wrong fluid can do more harm than the old fluid, so no change is recommended. The fluid used today is often semi-synthetic. If automatic transmission fluid is kept below 175 degrees, it will last the life of the vehicle. If, however, it exceeds 275 degrees, the life of the fluid is measured in hours, not years. Most of the heat is created in the torque converter. Overheating of the fluid can occur during towing. If you are planning to tow a trailer, I suggest that you have a transmission oil cooler installed to help keep the temperature of the fluid under control.

