ITEM T81/03
SUBJECT: COOLING SYSTEM OVERHEATING
MODELS: TR7; TR8

It is recommended that an examination be made of the radiator core on all vehicles being serviced for complaints of overheating.

In most instances a portion of the tubes can be observed through the filler plug (if fitted) or by removing a radiator hose connection. If light colored deposits are observed at the tube to header plate and surrounding the tube openings, it is recommended that the following procedure be carried out by a reputable radiator repair shop:-

1. Flush radiator with clean water.
2. Immerse radiator in tank containing a caustic soda solution for 30 minutes. The proper concentration of caustic soda can be determined with a hydrometer. A specific gravity of 1.15 to 1.28 at room temperature should be maintained. The caustic solution need not be heated, however, heating will speed up the process.
3. Flush radiator with clean water.
4. Repeat Step 2 for 15 minutes.
5. Flush thoroughly using a strong flow of cold water (this will help to remove loosened deposits). A thorough flushing is important to prevent any caustic residue from entering the cylinder block and head with resultant damage to aluminum components.
6. Leak test radiator by pressurizing core with air at 15psi (max), immerse in water and observe for leaks.

After re-installation of the radiator, refill the system with a 50% solution of Prestone II antifreeze (or other antifreeze known to be suitable to engine with aluminum cylinder heads). Add 3 ounces of a radiator "anti-rust" compound and run engine until the thermostat opens, allowing this compound to thoroughly mix with the coolant.

In the majority of cases, cleaning the radiator will provide a satisfactory repair avoiding the need for a costly replacement.

H.C.T.