WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The use of one or more oil-soluble titanium compounds in a lubricating oil composition comprising (a) a major amount of a base oil of lubricating viscosity; and (b) one or more dispersants containing one or more basic nitrogen atoms, for the purpose of maintaining or improving compatibility of a fluorocarbon elastomer seal with the lubricating oil composition in an internal combustion engine.

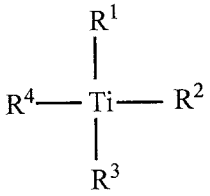
2. The use according to Claim 1, wherein the base oil of lubricating viscosity is selected from the group consisting of a Group I base oil, Group II base oil, Group III base oil, Group IV base oil, Group V base oil, and mixtures thereof.

3. The use according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the one or more dispersants are selected from the group consisting of a succinimide, carboxylic acid amide, hydrocarbyl monoamine, hydrocarbyl polyamine, Mannich base, phosphonamide, thiophosphonamide and phosphoramide, thiazole, triazole, a copolymer which contains a carboxylate ester with one or more additional polar functions, a borate post-treated succinimide, an ethylene carbonate post-treated succinimide, and mixtures thereof.

4. The use according to Claims 1-3, wherein the one or more dispersants is an alkenyl succinimide.

5. The use according to Claim 4, wherein the alkenyl succinimide is a polyisobutenyl succinimide or a polyisobutenyl bis-succinimide.

6. The use according to Claims 1-5, wherein the one or more oil-soluble titanium compounds are represented by the general formula:



wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently a hydrocarbyloxy-containing group.

7. The use according to Claim 6, wherein each R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is independently a C_1 to C_{20} alkoxy group.

8. The use according to Claim 6, wherein at least two of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 of the oil-soluble titanium compound are the same C_1 to C_{20} alkoxy group.

9. The use according to Claim 6, wherein at least three of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 of the oil-soluble titanium compound are the same C_1 to C_{20} alkoxy group.

10. The use according to Claim 6, wherein each of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 of the oil-soluble titanium compound is the same C_1 to C_{20} alkoxy group.

11. The use according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more oil-soluble titanium compounds are selected from the group consisting of titanium (IV) isopropoxide, titanium (IV) n-propoxide, titanium (IV) 2-ethylhexoxide and mixtures thereof.

12. The use according to Claims 1-11, wherein the lubricating oil composition comprises:

0.05 to 15 wt. % of the one or more dispersants; and 0.01 to 5 wt. % of the one or more oil-soluble titanium compounds, based on the weight of the lubricating oil composition.

13. The use according to Claims 1-12, wherein the lubricating oil composition further comprises one or more lubricating oil additives selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, detergent, rust inhibitor, dehazing agent, demulsifying agent, metal deactivating agent, friction modifier, antiwear agent, pour point depressant, antifoaming agent, co-solvent, package compatibiliser, corrosion-inhibitor, dye, extreme pressure agent, and mixtures thereof.

14. The use according to Claims 1-13, wherein the lubricating oil composition is a crankcase lubricating oil composition for an internal combustion engine.