

ABSTRACT

The present invention is intended to obtain a viscosity modifier for a lubricating oil, by the use of which a lubricating oil composition of excellent low-temperature properties can be obtained, and to obtain a lubricating oil composition of excellent low-temperature properties containing the viscosity modifier. The viscosity modifier for a lubricating oil comprises an ethylene/propylene copolymer (A) having the properties: the density is in the range of 857 to 882 kg/m³, Mw is in the range of 80,000 to 400,000, Mw/Mn is not more than 2.3, and the density (D (kg/m³)) and the melting point (T_m (°C)) satisfy the relation $T_m \leq 1.247 \times D - 1037$; or comprises an ethylene/propylene copolymer (B) having the properties: the ethylene content is in the range of 70 to 79 wt%, Mw is not less than 80,000 and less than 250,000, Mw/Mn is not more than 2.3, T_m is in the range of 15 to 60°C, and the ethylene content (E (wt%)) and the melting point (T_m (°C)) satisfy the relation $3.44 \times E - 206 \geq T_m$; or comprises an ethylene/propylene copolymer (C) having the properties: the ethylene content is in the range of 70 to 79 wt%, Mw is in the range of 250,000 to 400,000, Mw/Mn is not more than 2.3, T_m is in the range of 15 to 60°C, and the ethylene content (E (wt%)) and the melting point (T_m (°C)) satisfy the relation $3.44 \times E - 204 \geq T_m$. The lubricating oil composition comprises the ethylene/propylene

copolymer (A) (B) or (C), a lubricating oil base (D), and if necessary, a pour point depressant.