CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A viscosity index improver concentrate comprising, in non-ester diluent oil having a saturates content of at least 90%, one or more hydrogenated linear block copolymers having at least one block derived from monoalkenyl arene containing from 8 to about 16 carbon atoms covalently linked to at least one block derived from diene containing from 4 to about 12 carbon atoms in an amount that is greater than the critical overlap concentration (c_h*), in mass %, for the linear block copolymers in said diluent oil; and at least one hydrogenated star polymer, arms of which are homopolymers or copolymers of diolefin containing from 4 to about 12 carbon atoms, or copolymers of one or more conjugated diolefin containing from 4 to about 12 carbon atoms and one or more monoalkenyl arene containing from 8 to about 16 carbon atoms; said star polymer being present in an amount such that the c/c_h* value of the star polymer in the concentrate falls within the range of from 0.01 to about 1.6, wherein c is the concentration in mass % of said star polymer in said concentrate and c_h* is the critical overlap concentration in mass % for said star polymer in said diluent oil; said concentrate having a kinematic viscosity at 100° C. (kv_{100}) of from about 300 to about 3000 cSt.

2. A VI improver concentrate of claim **1**, wherein the diene blocks and/or alkenyl arene blocks of said linear block copolymers are functionalized to have pendant ester, amine, imide or amide functional groups.

3. A VI improver concentrate of claim **1**, further comprising greater than 1 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock.

4. A VI improver concentrate of claim **3**, comprising from about 5 mass % to about 60 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock.

5. A VI improver concentrate of claim **2**, further comprising greater than 1 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock.

6. A VI improver concentrate of claim **5**, comprising from about 5 mass % to about 60 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock.

7. A VI improver concentrate of claim **1**, consisting of non-ester diluent oil having a saturates content of at least 90%, one or more of said hydrogenated linear block copolymers; at least one of said star polymer; and optionally, an amount of ester base stock.

8. A VI improver concentrate of claim **2**, consisting of non-ester diluent oil having a saturates content of at least 90%, one or more of said hydrogenated linear block copolymers; at least one of said, star polymer; and optionally, an amount of ester base stock.

9. A method of increasing the amount of one or more hydrogenated linear block copolymer having at least one block derived from alkenyl arene covalently linked to at least one block derived from diene that can be dissolved in non-ester diluent oil having a saturates content of at least 90%, in the formation of a VI improver concentrate to an amount greater than the critical overlap concentration (c_h^*),

in mass %, for said linear block copolymer in said diluent oil, without raising the kinematic viscosity at 100° C. (kv_{100}) of the VI improver concentrate above about 3000 cSt, which method comprises adding to said concentrate at least one hydrogenated star polymer, arms of which are homopolymers or copolymers of diolefin, or copolymers of one or more conjugated diolefin and one or more monoalkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon, said star polymer being added in an amount such that the c/c_h^* value of the star polymer in the concentrate falls within the range of from 0.01 to about 1.6, wherein c is the concentration in mass % of said star polymer in the concentrate and c_h^* is the critical overlap concentration in mass % for said star polymer in said diluent oil.

10. The method of claim **9**, wherein the diene blocks and/or alkenyl arene: blocks of said linear block copolymers are functionalized to have pendant ester, amine, imide or amide functional groups.

11. The method of claim **9**, comprising the additional step of adding to said VI improver concentrate greater than 1 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein from about 5 mass % to about 60 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock is added.

13. The method of claim **10**, comprising the additional step of adding to said VI improver concentrate greater than 1 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock.

14. The method of claim **13**, wherein from about 5 mass % to about 60 mass %, based on the total mass of the concentrate, of ester base stock is added.