

World Manufacturer Identifier —SAE J1044a

SAE Recommended Practice
Editorial change February 1978

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Report of Vehicle Identification Numbers Committee approved September 1973 and last revised February 1977. Editorial change February 1978.

1. **Scope**—This SAE Recommended Practice establishes procedure for the issuance and assignment of a World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI) on a uniform basis to vehicle manufacturers who may desire to incorporate it in their Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN). This recommended practice is intended to be used in conjunction with the recommendations for VIN systems described in SAE J853a (November, 1968), J187 (October, 1970), J272b (September, 1977), J273a (September, 1977), and other SAE reports for VIN systems.

These procedures were developed to assist in identifying the vehicle as to its point of origin. It was felt that issuance of the WMI by a single organization would avoid duplication of manufacturer identifiers and assist in the identification of vehicles by agencies such as those concerned with motor vehicle titling and registration, law enforcement, and theft recovery.

2. **Definitions**

2.1 **World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI)**—The first section of the VIN consisting of a code designating the manufacturer of the vehicle.

2.2 **Other**—For other basic definitions, see SAE J218 (January, 1971).

3. **Background**

3.1 *SAE does not establish the requirement for any manufacturer to apply for or use manufacturer identifiers. SAE will issue a WMI only upon application.*

3.2 The WMI shall consist of three characters. An example of the WMI Code is included in Fig. 1.

3.3 The WMI, once issued, will not be re-issued for use by a different manufacturer for a period of 30 years following the last known production of a vehicle with that WMI.

3.4 More than one WMI may be issued to a given vehicle manufacturer.

3.5 WMI shall be available for assignment to vehicles either produced or scheduled to be produced, in quantities of 500 or more annually, or in quantities exceeding 100 vehicles per year for 5 or more consecutive years. For manufacturers of 500 or less vehicles annually, the number 9 in the third character shall be used and the third, fourth, and fifth characters of the VIS will identify the specific manufacturer.

4. **Procedures**

4.1 SAE shall maintain, under the direction of the SAE Vehicle Identification Numbers Committee, a bank of WMIs.

4.2 Assignment of a WMI shall be made by SAE upon receipt of a written request for such assignment by a vehicle manufacturer. Actual assignment will be made by the SAE to the manufacturer, on a form designed for this purpose.

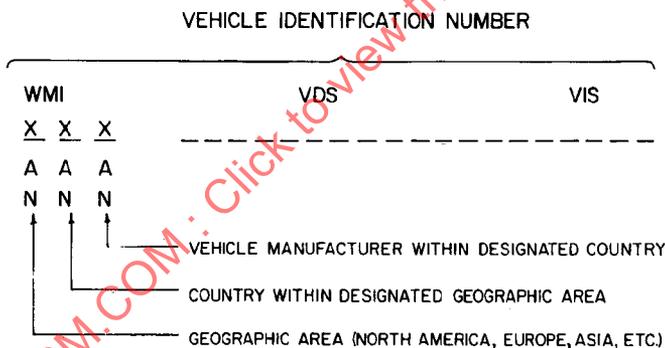
4.3 Requests for the assignment of a specific WMI will be honored, provided that the WMI conforms to the established system for identification of vehicle type, country of manufacturer, etc., and has not been previously assigned.

4.4 If a manufacturer does not accept the WMI assigned to him, he may request, in writing, the assignment of a different WMI. The reason for the request for reassignment should be stated.

4.5 SAE shall maintain two basic lists pertaining to WMI:

4.5.1 *List A*—An alphabetical listing of all vehicle manufacturers and their respective WMIs.

4.5.2 *List B*—A sequential listing of all WMIs which have been issued, the manufacturers to whom they were issued, the date of issuance, and any other details which may be needed for a complete record of the transaction.



(WMI CODE DISTRIBUTION CHART AVAILABLE FROM SAE)

FIG. 1

The ϕ symbol is for the convenience of the user in locating areas where technical revisions have been made to the previous issue of the report. If the symbol is next to the report title, it indicates a complete revision of the report.