

**Product Identification Numbering
System of Off-Road
Work Machines –
SAE J1360 JUN81**

SAE Recommended Practice
Approved June 1981

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PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERING SYSTEM OF OFF-ROAD WORK MACHINES—SAE J1360 JUN81

SAE Recommended Practice

Report of the PIN Task Force, approved June 1981. Rationale statement included as Appendix.

1. Purpose—This recommended practice has been established for the development and implementation of a product identification numbering system.

2. Scope—This recommended practice covers off-road, self-propelled work machines (agricultural, construction, forestry, industrial, and mining) as categorized in SAE J1116 (May 1979).

3. Definitions

3.1 Product Identification Number (PIN)—That unique identification usually referred to as an “end product serial number,” assigned to a “complete” off-road, self-propelled work machine by the manufacturer.

3.2 Component or Attachment Serial Number—That unique serial number assigned by a manufacturer for identification purposes to certain major components (axle, engine, transmission, etc.) or to attachments (backhoe, ripper, loader, ROPS, winch, etc.) used in off-road, self-propelled work machines. Rather than assigning a unique serial number, the component or attachment serial number may be the same as, or a derivative of, the PIN.

3.3 Concealed Product Identification Number—The PIN placed on the machine in a concealed location that is the same unique number described in paragraph 3.1 or a derivative of that number.

3.4 Label—Means of displaying a PIN or component/attachment serial number on the machine. For purposes of conformance to this recommended practice, serial numbers indelibly etched or imprinted directly onto the component or attachment is considered labeling (See paragraph 6.2).

3.5 Product Identification Number Derivative (PIN Derivative)—A number which is adopted from a given PIN and contains fewer characters. It is unique for each machine and relates to the PIN in a uniform manner. It may be affixed to machine components (or used as a Concealed Product Identification Number) to associate the component with the machine bearing the original PIN.

4. Characteristics of Number

4.1 Length—The PIN or serial numbers on labels or stamped on the machine shall consist of at least 6 but not more than 17 characters and may consist of arabic numerals and roman letters. Manufacturers should strive for a uniform format and number of characters within their company.

The numeral zero (0) shall be used to fill out the leading positions of the number whenever less than 6 characters are used. As an example, the numeral “101” shall read “000101,” “0000101,” etc.; “AF3” shall read “000AF3,” “0000AF3,” etc. All documentation and/or ownership information shall record the number with the leading zero(s).

The PIN or serial number shall be displayed in one horizontal line without breaks or separations.

4.2 Characters—Only the following arabic numerals and roman letters shall be used in the PIN or serial numbers:

Arabic numerals: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Roman letters: A through Z, except for I O Q

4.3 Significance of Characters—The manufacturer may attach significance to the meaning of any numeral or letter assigned to a PIN or serial number.

4.4 Duplication—A manufacturer shall insure that non-duplicative numbers are used and that the same number will not be re-issued for thirty (30) years within his own company.

5. Owner Applied Numbers—This recommended practice is not intended to cover various systems of owner applied identification numbers. The owner applied number is not intended to be a manufacturer's PIN or serial number.

6. Display of PIN and Serial Numbers

6.1 PIN Label—The many configurations of machines preclude having a standardized location for the PIN label.

The PIN label shall be located on a permanent structure of the machine not normally considered a replaceable item and which does not readily lend itself to substitution.

The preferred location of the PIN label is on the left side of the machine adjacent to the operator's access area. It shall be readable, without removing any part of the machine, under daylight lighting conditions, by an observer having 20/20 vision (Snellen).

On machines where the above is not practicable, the manufacturer shall select a location that would be considered obvious to someone looking for the PIN label.

6.2 Component and Attachment Serial Number Label—Component and attachment serial number labels shall be located on the applicable component or attachment in such a manner as to maximize visibility. Rather than using labels, the manufacturer may elect to indelibly etch or imprint the serial number directly onto the component or attachment.

The serial number label shall be located on a permanent structure of the attachment or component not normally considered a replaceable item and which does not readily lend itself to substitution.

Those components and attachments receiving a serial number shall be at the discretion of the manufacturer.

7. Protection from Elements and Environment—If possible, all labels shall be placed in such a location so as to minimize the risk of damage to the labels during machine operation or from weathering.

8. Durability and Size of Characters—The PIN, the serial number, and model number (if used) shall be impressed or embossed on the label to a minimum of 0.25 mm or fabricated in a similar, durable manner. Materials shall be used that will minimize the risk of loss of label information. The characters used on labels shall have a minimum height of 4.6 mm.

9. Resistance to Alteration or Removal—The label shall be constructed and affixed to the machine in such a manner so that it will be difficult to alter or remove without detection or mutilation.

10. Identity of Manufacturer or Importer—The label shall identify the name of the manufacturer (or in the case of imported products, the importer's name may be shown) and shall include the manufacturer's name, city, and state, including zip code. If desired, the manufacturer's logo may also be included. If the manufacturer's or importer's name does not appear in the telephone or city directory of the city indicated, the street address shall also be shown.

11. Protection Against Adding Characters—A symbol shall immediately precede the first numeral or letter and immediately follow the last numeral or letter of the PIN or serial number shown on labels or stamped on the component, or placed on the machine in a concealed location. The selection of the specific symbol is at the discretion of the manufacturer but shall not be any character that may be confused with an arabic numeral or roman letter. The symbol may be an asterisk (*), a company logo, or other configuration.

Symbols are designed to provide protection against the likelihood of characters being added to the PIN or serial number. If the same objective is achieved by providing an appropriate site or plate design on which the PIN is affixed, symbols are not required.

12. Concealed Product Identification Number—In addition, manufacturers shall indelibly etch or imprint the PIN or a Product Identification Number Derivative in a concealed location on a permanent structure of the machine which is not normally considered a replaceable or substitutable item. The Concealed Product Identification Number shall be impressed to a minimum depth of 0.2 mm. The characters used in the Concealed Product Identification Number shall have a minimum height of 6.0 mm and all characters must be legible. Protection against adding characters to the Concealed Product Identification Number shall be taken. (See Section 11—Protection Against Adding Characters.)

The location of the Concealed Product Identification Number shall be visible without removing, detaching, or dismantling any major part of the machine (except for lightweight guards, shields, etc.).

The location of the Concealed Product Identification Number shall NOT be published in the operator's or service manual and is divulged only to authorized law enforcement officers and others on a need-to-know basis.

13. Graphics for Labels—The PIN, serial number, model number (if used), and manufacturer's name and address shall be prominently displayed on the label as in Figs. 1 and 2.



FIG. 1—PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN) LABEL