

Submitted for recognition as an American National Standard

(R) PASSENGER CAR IDENTIFICATION TERMINOLOGY

Foreword—This Document has not changed other than to put it into the new SAE Technical Standards Board Format.

1. Scope—This recommended practice is intended to provide uniform nomenclature and definitions for the primary levels of vehicle identification, with particular application to passenger cars.

2. References

2.1 Applicable Publications—The following publications form a part of the specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated the latest revision of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE PUBLICATIONS—Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001.

SAE J272c—Vehicle Identification Number Systems

SAE J853a—Vehicle Identification Numbers

3. Definitions

3.1 Passenger Car—A motor vehicle with motive power, except a multipurpose vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer, designed for carrying 10 persons or less.

3.2 Manufacturer—Any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the production or assembly of passenger cars.

3.3 Make—A distinctive name, applied to a group of vehicles from one manufacturer, which may be further subdivided, such as: car line, body type, etc. (See Figures 1 and 2).

Typical examples of hypothetical terminology in Figure 2 applied to four United States passenger car manufacturers:

Manufacturer:	GM	Ford	Chrysler	AM
Make:	Chevrolet	Mercury	Dodge	Rambler
Car Line:	Malibu Classic	etc.	Aries	etc.
Series:	Malibu	etc.	Aries SE	etc.
Body Type:	4-door Sedan	etc.	2-door Coupe	etc.

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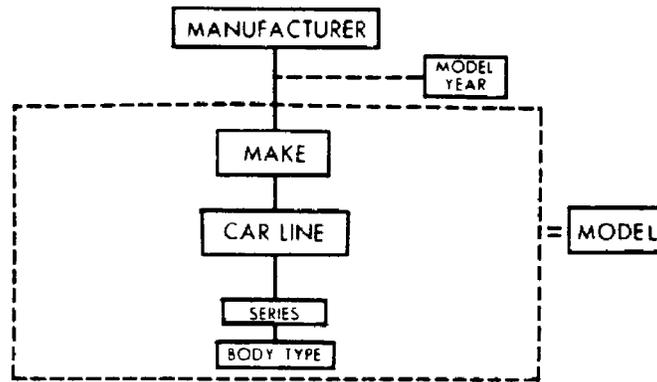


FIGURE 1—SCHEMATIC RELATIONSHIP OF PASSENGER CAR TERMS

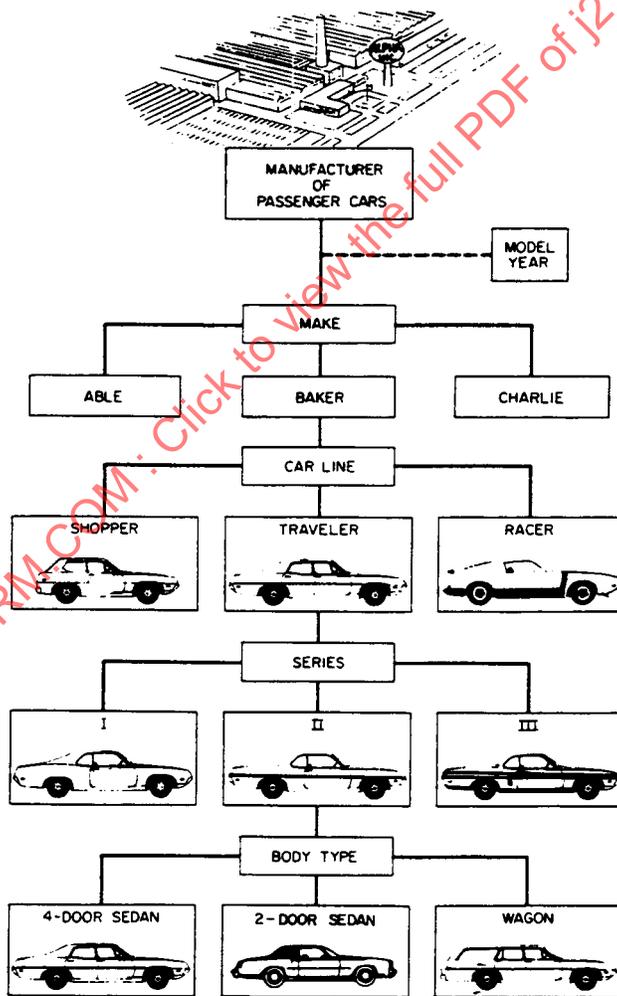


FIGURE 2—APPLICATION OF UNIFORM AUTOMOTIVE TERMINOLOGY

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- 3.4 Car Line**—A name denoting a family of vehicles within a make which has a degree of commonality in construction, such as body, chassis, etc. (See Figures 1 and 2).
- 3.5 Series**—A specific level of decor, standard equipment, or option grouping within a car line—usually distinguished by particular marketing characteristics (See Figures 1 and 2).
- 3.6 Body Type**—The general configuration or shape of a vehicle, distinguished by characteristics such as number of doors, seats, or windows, roof line, hardtop, convertible, etc. (BODY STYLE AND BODY TYPE ARE SYNONYMOUS). (See Figures 1 and 2).
- 3.7 Model Year**—A year designation used by the manufacturer for marketing vehicles (not necessarily the year of manufacture).
- 3.8 Model**—The term applied to a vehicle which for passenger cars includes the make, car line, series, and body type. Example: Chevrolet Malibu Classic four-door sedan.
- 3.9 Year of Manufacture**—The calendar year in which a vehicle is manufactured.
- 3.10 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)**—The number assigned to a vehicle by the manufacturer primarily for registration and identification purposes. (For supplementary information, see SAE J272c and SAE J853a.)
- 3.11 Vehicle Identification Number Derivative (VIN Derivative)**—A number which is adapted from a given VIN, and contains fewer digits and characters. It is unique for each vehicle and relates to the VIN in a uniform manner. It may be affixed to vehicle components to associate the component with the vehicle bearing the original VIN.
- 4. Notes**
- 4.1 Marginal Indicia**—The change bar (I) located in the left margin is for the convenience of the user in locating areas where technical revisions have been made to the previous issue of the report. An (R) symbol to the left of the document title indicates a complete revision of the report.

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