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Passenger Car Vehicle Identification Number System —SAE J273a

SAE Recommended Practice
Last Revised February 1977

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PASSENGER CAR VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SYSTEM—SAE J273a

SAE Recommended Practice

Report of Vehicle Identification Numbers Committee approved June 1972 and last revised February 1977.

1. Purpose—This SAE Recommended Practice provides direction for the design of a passenger car Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

2. Scope—This practice supplements SAE J272a. It applies to characteristics of passenger car descriptive and identifying information which are to be set forth in a uniform manner in the vehicle identification number.

3. Definitions

3.1 Refer to SAE J272a for definitions of vehicle identification number, world manufacturer identifier, vehicle descriptor section, vehicle indicator section, field, and sequential number.

3.2 Refer to SAE J218 for definitions of make, car line, series, body type, model year, and year of manufacture.

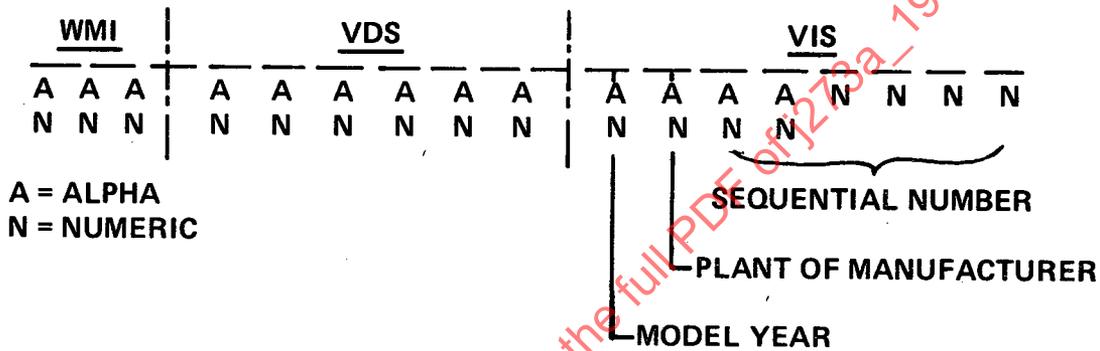
4. Requirements

4.1 World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI)—The WMI shall be the first section of the VIN and consist of three characters pre-assigned to the manufacturer by the National Organization (SAE in the case of U.S. vehicle

manufacturers) in accordance with SAE Recommended Practice J1044a, World Manufacturer Identifier.

4.2 Vehicle Descriptor Section Content (VDS)—The VDS shall be the second section of the VIN. It shall consist of six characters. This section shall identify the general attributes of the vehicle, such as make, car line, series, body type, and engine type. The coding and sequence of this section is determined by the manufacturer.

4.3 Vehicle Indicator Section (VIS)—The VIS shall be the last section of the VIN and shall consist of eight characters, the last four of which shall be numeric. If the manufacturer chooses to designate model year or year of manufacture and/or plant of manufacture in this section, it is recommended that the year be indicated by the first character of the VIS and the plant by the second character. The recommended code to be used when designating year is indicated in the Table in J272a.



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