
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



3779

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Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN) — Content and structure

Véhicules routiers — Numéro d'identification des véhicules (VIN) — Contenu et structure

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO member bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been set up has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 3779 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*.

This second edition was submitted directly to the ISO Council, in accordance with clause 6.12.1 of the Directives for the technical work of ISO. It cancels and replaces the first edition (i.e. ISO 3779-1976), which had been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Austria	France	Romania
Belgium	Germany	South Africa, Rep. of
Brazil	Ghana	Spain
Bulgaria	Hungary	Sweden
Canada	Iran	Switzerland
Chile	Italy	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of	U.S.A.
Finland	Netherlands	Yugoslavia

The member body of the following country had expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Japan*

* Subsequently, this member body approved the Standard.

Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN) — Content and structure

1 SCOPE

This International Standard specifies the content and structure of a vehicle identification number (VIN) in order to establish, on a world-wide basis, a uniform identification numbering system for road vehicles.

2 FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard applies to motor vehicles and trailers as defined in ISO 3833, sub-clauses 3.1 and 3.2, and to motorcycles (mopeds not included).

3 REFERENCES

ISO 3780, *Road vehicles — World manufacturer identifier (WMI) code*.

ISO 3833, *Motor vehicles, trailers and vehicle combinations — Designations and definitions*.

ISO 4030, *Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN) — Location and attachment*.

4 DEFINITIONS

4.1 vehicle identification number (VIN) : A structured combination of characters assigned to a vehicle by the manufacturer for identification purposes.

4.2 world manufacturer identifier (WMI) : The first section of the VIN, designating the manufacturer of the vehicle. The code is assigned to a vehicle manufacturer in order to allow the identification of the manufacturer of the vehicle and, when used in conjunction with the remaining sections of the VIN, provides for uniqueness of the VIN for all vehicles in the world for a period of 30 years.

4.3 vehicle descriptor section (VDS) : The second section of the VIN. It provides information describing the general attributes of the vehicle.

4.4 vehicle indicator section (VIS) : The last section of the VIN. It is a combination of characters assigned by the manufacturer to distinguish one vehicle from another. This number, in conjunction with the VDS, provides uniqueness among all vehicles produced by the manufacturer for a period of 30 years.

4.5 manufacturer : A person, firm, or corporation under whose responsibility a vehicle has been assembled to form a unit which is ready for operation and who is responsible for the uniqueness of the VIN.

4.6 year : The calendar year in which the vehicle was produced or the model year of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer.

4.7 divider : A symbol, character or physical border that may be used to separate the sections of the VIN or to define the limits (beginning and end) of the VIN. Dividers may be used only on the vehicle (not on documents) and they should not be capable of being confused with arabic numerals or roman letters.

5 REQUIREMENTS

5.1 VIN basic content (see examples in annex)

The VIN shall consist of three sections : first, the world manufacturer identifier (WMI) section, second, the vehicle descriptor section (VDS), and last, the vehicle indicator section (VIS).

5.2 World manufacturer identifier (WMI)

Shall be the first section of the VIN and shall consist of three characters, as specified in ISO 3780, which are pre-assigned by organizations other than the manufacturer.

5.3 Vehicle descriptor section (VDS)

Shall be the second section of the VIN and shall consist of six characters; if the manufacturer does not use one or more of these characters, the spaces not used shall be filled by alphabetic or numeric characters of the manufacturer's choice. This section shall identify the general attributes of the vehicle. The coding and sequence of this section are determined by the manufacturer.

5.4 Vehicle indicator section (VIS)

Shall be the last section of the VIN and shall consist of eight characters; the last four characters shall be numeric.

If the manufacturer chooses to designate year and/or plant in this section, it is recommended that the year be indicated by the first character of the VIS and the plant of manufacture by the second character. The recommended code to be used when designating year is indicated in the table below.

5.5 Characters

Only the following arabic numerals and roman letters shall

be used in the VIN :

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
A B C D E F G H J K L M N P R S T U V W X Y Z

(The letters I, O and Q shall not be used.)

5.6 Dividers

The selection of the specific divider to be used is at the discretion of the manufacturer, but it shall not be any character used in the VIN (see 5.5) or any character that could be confused with a VIN character. The divider shall be used at the limits of each line (as described in 5.7.2 below) of the VIN and may be used between sections.

5.7 VIN display

5.7.1 The VIN printed on documents shall be shown on one line without blanks.

5.7.2 The VIN as displayed on the vehicle or manufacturer's plate shall be represented on either one or two lines without blanks and with no section being split.

TABLE – Characters used for designating the year

Year	Code	Year	Code	Year	Code	Year	Code
1971	1	1981	B	1991	M	2001	1
1972	2	1982	C	1992	N	2002	2
1973	3	1983	D	1993	P	2003	3
1974	4	1984	E	1994	R	2004	4
1975	5	1985	F	1995	S	2005	5
1976	6	1986	G	1996	T	2006	6
1977	7	1987	H	1997	V	2007	7
1978	8	1988	J	1998	W	2008	8
1979	9	1989	K	1999	X	2009	9
1980	A	1990	L	2000	Y	2010	A