

	SURFACE VEHICLE STANDARD		J686 JUL2012
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		Superseding J686 OCT1999	
Motor Vehicle License Plates			

RATIONALE

This document has been determined to contain basic and stable technology which is not dynamic in nature.

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Foreword—This Document has also changed to comply with the new SAE Technical Standards Board Format. Purpose was changed to 1.1 and References were added as Section 2.

1. **Scope**—This SAE Standard establishes basic dimensions for motor vehicle license plates. It is based on data supplied by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Motor Vehicle manufacturers Association, and Motorcycle, Scooter and Allied Trades Association. The dimensions established in this document have considered legibility and identification of the license plate.
- 1.1 **Purpose**—This standard is intended to facilitate attachment of license plates to motor vehicles by providing uniform overall dimensions, bolt hole sizes and spacing, and recommended beading practice.
2. **References**—There are no referenced publications specified herein.
3. **Overall Size of Plate**—Standard sizes for license plate shall be:
 - a. For motor vehicles other than motorcycles and motor driven cycles—6.00 in (152.4 mm) height by 12.00 in (304.8 mm) length. See Figure 1.
 - b. For motorcycles and motor driven cycles—4.00 in (101.6 mm) height by 7.00 in (177.9 mm) length. See Figure 2.
4. **Bolt Holes**—Bolt holes shall be 0.28 in (7.1 mm) diameter and spaced as indicated in Figures 1 and 2.

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