

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

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

1. Scope—This SAE Standard has been established to provide direction for the design and installation of a Vehicle Identification Number assigned to a passenger car or truck. In adhering to these standards, facility of application in factory production and appearance are matters for manufacturer control.

2. References

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

SAE J272—Vehicle Identification Number Systems

3. Definition

3.1 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)—The number assigned to a vehicle by the manufacturer primarily for registration and identification purposes.

Refer to SAE Recommended Practice J272, Vehicle Identification Number Systems, for VIN structure.

4. Accessibility—The VIN shall be located so that it is readily visible to an observer standing outside the vehicle without need of access to any compartment of the vehicle.

5. Durability

5.1 The VIN shall be impressed, embossed, or fabricated in a similarly durable manner in the material of the vehicle or on a separate plate. Materials subject to corrosion should be protected to minimize risk of the loss of the VIN.

5.2 The VIN shall be located on a permanent structure of the vehicle. A permanent structure is one that does not readily lend itself to substitution and which is not likely to be removed or replaced.

5.3 The VIN shall be so affixed that it will be difficult to remove, replace, or alter without detection.

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6. **Character of Numbers**—The VIN may consist of numerals, letters, or a combination thereof. The digits shall be legible and have a minimum height of 4.750 mm.
7. **Notes**
- 7.1 **Marginal Indicia**—The change bar (I) is for the convenience of the user in locating areas where technical revisions have been made to the previous issue of the report. If the symbol is next to the report title, it indicates a complete revision of the report

PREPARED BY THE SAE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS COMMITTEE

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