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Superseded by 49 CFR Part 565

Vehicle Identification Numbers

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.

- 1.1 **Rationale**—This document has been superseded and covered by U.S. federal regulation 49 CFR Part 565.

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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