



Automotive Industry Action Group

# B-4

## *Parts Identification and Tracking Application Standard*

# Application Standard For Parts Identification and Tracking



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# Application Standard For Parts Identification and Tracking

## FOREWORD

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This revision of the B-4 Parts Identification and Tracking Application Standard was prepared by the Automatic Identification Data Collection (AIDC) Work Group. The purpose of this revision is to update the Standard by incorporating symbology options approved by the AIAG since the February 1998 revision.

The B-4 Standard now offers two options for linear symbologies: Code 39 or Code 128, – and two options for two-dimensional symbologies: Data Matrix or QR Code.

# Application Standard For Parts Identification and Tracking



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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# Application Standard For Parts Identification and Tracking

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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This Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) B-4 Standard (2<sup>nd</sup> revision) outlines the symbologies recommended for automotive part identification and tracking. This Standard recommends the use of the linear symbologies, Code 39 or Code 128, or the 2D symbologies, Data Matrix or QR Code. It is not the intent of this document to cause the obsolescence of existing systems.

One of the criteria used when making the decision to recommend more than one symbology was the availability of existing auto-discriminating equipment to read multiple symbologies.

The Automatic Identification Data Collection (AIDC) Work Group also determined that the most effort is incurred in the *production*, not in the *scanning* of the symbol. The complexity and level of knowledge required to *scan* a symbol is minimal compared to the level of complexity and knowledge necessary to *produce* a high quality mark.

Therefore, to decrease cost, improve quality, and reduce the confusion factor in the total system, it was decided that the Supplier, and not the Customer, **SHALL** make the decision of which symbology to use and inform the Customer of that choice.

### Scope

This standard defines the minimum requirements for marking or labeling individual parts, unit packs, subpacks, kits, and assemblies/subassemblies that are distributed outside the originating location. These specifications provide maximum flexibility for symbol size, location, and information included in the symbol.

Intended applications include, but are not limited to, systems that automate the control of individual parts and unit packs. Such applications include:

- production operations
- product testing
- assembly process verification
- tool crib control
- inventory control
- distribution/receipt of parts
- maintenance, repair, and operating (MRO) supplies.

This standard does not define the label dimensions, marking areas, marking methods, or the location of the symbol(s) on the individual part or unit pack. Before implementation, suppliers **SHOULD** review and obtain approval of these details from their customers.