



ISO 17987-3

**Road vehicles — Local Interconnect
Network (LIN) —**

**Part 3:
Protocol specification**

*Véhicules routiers — Réseau Internet local (LIN) —
Partie 3: Spécification du protocole*

**Second edition
2025-07**

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Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms	1
3.1 Terms and definitions	1
3.2 Symbols.....	4
3.3 Abbreviated terms.....	4
4 Node concept	5
4.1 General.....	5
4.2 Concept of operation	6
4.2.1 Commander and responder.....	6
4.2.2 Frames.....	6
4.2.3 Data transport.....	7
5 Protocol requirements	7
5.1 Signal.....	7
5.1.1 Management.....	7
5.1.2 Types.....	7
5.1.3 Consistency	7
5.1.4 Packing.....	7
5.1.5 Reception and transmission	8
5.2 Frame.....	9
5.2.1 Transfer	9
5.2.2 Structure	9
5.2.3 Frame length.....	13
5.2.4 Frame types.....	14
5.3 Schedule tables	19
5.3.1 General.....	19
5.3.2 Time definitions.....	19
5.3.3 Frame slot.....	19
5.3.4 Schedule table handling.....	20
5.4 Task behaviour model	20
5.4.1 General.....	20
5.4.2 Commander task state machine	20
5.4.3 Responder task state machine	20
5.5 Status management.....	23
5.5.1 General.....	23
5.5.2 Concept.....	23
5.5.3 Event-triggered frames	23
5.5.4 Reporting to the cluster.....	23
6 Node configuration and identification	24
6.1 General.....	24
6.2 LIN product identification.....	24
6.2.1 Supplier ID, function ID and variant ID	24
6.2.2 Serial number.....	24
6.2.3 Wildcards.....	25
6.3 Responder node model.....	25
6.3.1 Memory model.....	25
6.3.2 Responder node configuration variants	25
6.3.3 Initial node address	26
6.3.4 PDU structure.....	27
6.3.5 Node configuration handling	29
6.3.6 Node configuration services.....	30

This is a preview of ISO 17987-3:2025. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Annex B (informative) LIN history and version compatibility	39
Annex C (normative) LIN auto addressing procedures	43
Annex D (normative) LIN AA Procedure C	45
Annex E (normative) LIN AA Procedure D	53
Annex F (normative) LIN AA Procedure E	59
Bibliography	74

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Data communication*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17987-3:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- master and slave terms used for the LIN node types in ISO 17987:2016 (all parts) are replaced within this document with inclusive language terms commander and responder. This also applies for abbreviations and file formats NCF and LDF;
- auto addressing added;
- editorial updates.

A list of all parts in the ISO 17987 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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The LIN protocol as proposed is an automotive focused low speed UART-based network (Universal Asynchronous Receiver Transmitter). Some of the key characteristics of the LIN protocol are signal-based communication, schedule table-based frame transfer, commander/responder communication with error detection, node configuration and diagnostic service communication.

The LIN protocol is for low-cost automotive control applications as, for example, door module and air conditioning systems (see also history described in [Annex B](#)). It serves as a communication infrastructure for low-speed control applications in vehicles by providing the following:

- signal-based communication to exchange information between applications in different nodes;
- bit rate support from 1 kbit/s to 20 kbit/s;
- deterministic schedule table-based frame communication;
- network management that wakes up and puts the LIN cluster into sleep mode in a controlled manner;
- status management that provides error handling and error signalling;
- transport layer that allows large amount of data to be transmitted (such as diagnostic services);
- specification of how to handle diagnostic services;
- electrical physical layer specifications;
- node description language describing properties of responder nodes;
- network description file describing behaviour of communication;
- application programming interface.

The ISO 17987 series is based on the open systems interconnection (OSI) basic reference model as specified in ISO/IEC 7498-1 which structures communication systems into seven layers.

The OSI model structures data communication into seven layers called (top down) application layer (layer 7), presentation layer, session layer, transport layer, network layer, data link layer and physical layer (layer 1). A subset of these layers is used in the ISO 17987 series.

The ISO 17987 series distinguish between the services provided by a layer to the layer above it and the protocol used by the layer to send a message between the peer entities of that layer. The reason for this distinction is to make the services, especially the application layer services and the transport layer services, reusable also for other types of networks than LIN. In this way, the protocol is hidden from the service user and it is possible to change the protocol if special system requirements demand it.

The ISO 17987 series provides all documents and references required to support the implementation of the requirements related to.

- ISO 17987-1: provides an overview of the ISO 17987 series and structure along with the use case definitions and a common set of resources (definitions, references) for use by all subsequent parts.
- ISO 17987-2: specifies the requirements related to the transport protocol and the network layer requirements to transport the PDU of a message between LIN nodes.
- ISO 17987-3 (this document): specifies the requirements for implementations of the LIN protocol on the logical level of abstraction. Hardware related properties are hidden in the defined constraints.
- ISO 17987-4: specifies the requirements for implementations of active hardware components which are necessary to interconnect the protocol implementation.

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and define how a responder node is configured and how a responder node uses the identification service.

- ISO 17987-6: specifies tests to check the conformance of the LIN protocol implementation according to ISO 17987-2 and ISO 17987-3. This comprises tests for the data link layer, the network layer and the transport layer.
- ISO 17987-7: specifies tests to check the conformance of the LIN electrical physical layer implementation (logical level of abstraction) according to ISO 17987-4.