



SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

J1044™

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Superseding JUL2012

World Manufacturer Identifier

RATIONALE

SAE J1044 has been reaffirmed to comply with the SAE Five-Year Review policy.

1. SCOPE

This SAE Recommended Practice establishes procedure for the issuance and assignment of a World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI) on a uniform basis to vehicle manufacturers who may desire to incorporate it in their Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN). This recommended practice is intended to be used in conjunction with the recommendations for VIN systems described in SAE J853, J187, J272, and other SAE reports for VIN systems.

These procedures were developed to assist in identifying the vehicle as to its point of origin. It was felt that review and coordination of the WMI by a single organization would avoid duplication of manufacturer identifiers and assist in the identification of vehicles by agencies such as those concerned with motor vehicle titling and registration, law enforcement, and theft recovery.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Publications

The following publications form a part of the specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE Publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

SAE J187	Truck Vehicle Identification Numbers
SAE J218	Passenger Car Identification Terminology
SAE J272	Vehicle Identification Number Systems
SAE J853	Vehicle Identification Numbers
SAE J1229	Truck Identification Terminology

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3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI)

The first section of the VIN consisting of a code uniquely designating the manufacturer of the vehicle.

3.2 Other

For other basic definitions see SAE J218, SAE J272 and SAE J1229

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 SAE does not establish the requirement for any manufacturer to apply for or use manufacturer identifiers. SAE will issue a WMI only upon application.
- 4.2 The WMI, once issued, will not be re-issued for use by a different manufacturer for a period of 10 years following the last known production of a vehicle with that WMI.
- 4.3 More than one WMI may be issued to a given vehicle manufacturer.
- 4.4 The WMI shall consist of three characters or six characters, dependent on annual production. An example of the WMI encoding is included in Table 1.
 - 4.4.1 For manufacturers that produce, or are scheduled to produce, in quantities of 900 or more annually, a three character WMI shall be available for assignment.
 - 4.4.2 For manufacturers of less than 900 vehicles annually, a six character WMI shall be available for assignment. For a six character WMI, the number 9 in the third character shall be used and VIN positions twelve through fourteen (12-14) will identify the specific manufacturer.
- 4.5 For manufacturers assigned a six character WMI, request of a new, three character WMI is required as production exceeds the 900 unit level.

TABLE 1 - WMI ENCODING WITHIN THE VIN

Field Name	WMI			VDS					Check Digit	VIS							
VIN Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3 Character WMI	X	X	X														
6 Character WMI	X	X	9									X	X	X			

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 Procedures for SAE

- 5.1.1 SAE shall maintain a bank of WMIs.
- 5.1.2 Assignment of blocks of WMI shall be made by SAE upon receipt of a written request for such assignment by a national organization.
- 5.1.3 Assignment of blocks of WMI shall be honored, provided the national organization has completed the requirements of Section 5.2.3.

5.1.4 SAE shall maintain two basic lists pertaining to WMI.

5.1.4.1 LIST A

An alphabetical listing of all vehicle manufacturers and their respective WMIs.

5.1.4.2 LIST B

A sequential listing of all WMIs which have been issued, the manufacturers to whom they were issued, the date of issuance, and any other details which may be needed for a complete record of the transaction.

5.2 Procedures for National Organizations

5.2.1 Assignment of a WMI shall be made by the national organization upon receipt of a written request for such assignment by a vehicle manufacturer.

5.2.2 Requests for the assignment of a specific WMI will be honored, provided that the WMI conforms to the established system for identification of vehicle type, country of manufacturer, etc., and has not been previously assigned.

5.2.3 National organizations facing depletion of available WMIs shall conduct an audit to identify manufacturers that have not produced vehicles for ten (10) years or more. The WMI from the identified manufacturers shall then be reallocated back to the block of available WMIs for issuance by the national organization.

5.2.4 The national organization shall, upon issuance of all WMIs reserved by SAE, submit written request to SAE for an additional block of WMIs.

5.3 Procedures for Manufacturers

5.3.1 When necessary, a manufacturer shall submit a written request to the appropriate national organization for assignment of a WMI.

5.3.2 If a manufacturer does not accept the WMI it has been assigned, it may request, in writing, the assignment of a different WMI. Assignment of an alternate WMI is at the discretion of the national organization.

5.3.3 To facilitate tracking of WMI assignments, WMI assignees should communicate with the national organization any changes or variations in names associated with the WMI (e.g. corporate name, divisions, subsidiaries, etc.)

6. NOTES

6.1 Marginal Indicia

The change bar (l) located in the left margin is for the convenience of the user in locating areas where technical revisions have been made to the previous issue of the report. An (R) symbol to the left of the document title indicates a complete revision of the report.