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Recreational Trailer Vehicle Identification Number System—SAE J1018a

**SAE Recommended Practice
Editorial change September 1977**

**THIS IS A PREPRINT AND WILL
APPEAR IN THE NEXT EDITION
OF THE SAE HANDBOOK**

Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc.
400 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, WARRENDALE, PA. 15096



PREPRINT

RECREATIONAL TRAILER VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SYSTEM—SAE J1018a

SAE Recommended Practice

Report of Vehicle Identification Numbers Committee and On-Highway Recreational Vehicle Committee approved March 1973 and last revised March 1975. Editorial change September 1977.

1. Purpose—This SAE Recommended Practice provides direction for the design of a vehicle identification number (VIN) system for certain types of vehicles, including camping trailers, travel trailers, fifth wheel travel trailers, boat trailers, utility trailers, and nonvehicular units, including slide-in campers and truck caps.

φ **2. Scope**—This recommended practice supplements SAE J272b. It applies to characteristics of the types of vehicles noted in paragraph 1, and of the descriptive and identifying information which are to be set forth in a uniform manner in the identification number.

3. Definitions

3.1 Make Identifier—That portion of the VIN which designates the make of the vehicle.

φ **3.2** Refer to SAE J272b for definition of vehicle identification number, vehicle descriptor section, vehicle indicator section, field, plant of origin, and sequential number. Refer to SAE J218 for definition of model year.

3.3 Type of Vehicle

3.3.1 CAMPING TRAILER—A vehicular portable unit mounted on wheels and constructed with collapsible partial side walls of fabric, plastic, or other pliable material which folds for towing by another vehicle and unfolds at the campsite to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use.

3.3.2 TRAVEL TRAILER—A vehicular portable unit mounted on wheels, of such size or weight as not to require special highway movement permits when

drawn by a passenger automobile; primarily designed and constructed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use.

3.3.3 FIFTH WHEEL TRAVEL TRAILER—A vehicular portable unit mounted on wheels, of such size or weight as not to require special highway movement permits when drawn by a vehicle fitted with a fifth wheel hitch; primarily designed and constructed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use.

3.3.4 BOAT TRAILER—A vehicular portable unit mounted on wheels for towing by another vehicle; primarily designed and constructed for the transportation of boats used for recreational or travel use.

3.3.5 UTILITY TRAILER—A vehicular portable unit mounted on a wheel or wheels, of such size or weight as not to require special highway movement permits when drawn by a passenger automobile; primarily designed and constructed for the transportation of property.

3.3.6 TRUCK CAMPER—A portable unit designed to be loaded onto, or affixed to, the bed of a truck, constructed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use.

3.3.7 TRUCK CAP—A vehicular portable structure made of durable material which is mounted over the bed of a pickup truck, and used for utility or camping purposes.

3.4 Length of Trailer Field—That field in the VIN which designates the length of the box or unit. Length shall be measured from the hitch coupler to the extreme rear projection.

The φ symbol 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.

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