



SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

J272™

AUG2024

Issued 1972-05
Revised 2008-08
Reaffirmed 2024-08

Superseding J272 AUG2008

Vehicle Identification Number Systems

RATIONALE

Decimal equivalent for the fractional remainder of 6/11 is published incorrectly. Change required to correct a technical inaccuracy.

SAE J272 has been reaffirmed to comply with the SAE Five-Year Review policy.

FOREWORD

This document replaces SAE J273 Passenger Car Vehicle Identification Number System and SAE J1108 Truck and Truck Tractor Vehicle Identification Number Systems.

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 This recommended practice describes general characteristics of VIN systems. It includes certain specific requirements, supporting definitions, basic content, and examples.
- 1.2 The VIN should be considered in the context of a world manufacturer identifier to establish a unique motor vehicle identity.
- 1.3 Purpose

This SAE Recommended Practice provides direction for uniform content and structure of vehicle identification numbers assigned to each type of motor vehicle.

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.

SAE Executive Standards Committee Rules provide that: "This report is published by SAE to advance the state of technical and engineering sciences. The use of this report is entirely voluntary, and its applicability and suitability for any particular use, including any patent infringement arising therefrom, is the sole responsibility of the user."

SAE reviews each technical report at least every five years at which time it may be revised, reaffirmed, stabilized, or cancelled. SAE invites your written comments and suggestions.

Copyright © 2024 SAE International

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, or used for text and data mining, AI training, or similar technologies, without the prior written permission of SAE.

TO PLACE A DOCUMENT ORDER: Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada)
Tel: +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA)
Fax: 724-776-0790
Email: CustomerService@sae.org
http://www.sae.org

SAE WEB ADDRESS:

Full document details: SAE J272_202408

For more information on this standard, visit
https://www.sae.org/standards/content/J272_202408/

Documents

Standard, visit Sharing Hub

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 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 J218 Passenger Car Identification Terminology

SAE J853 Vehicle Identification Numbers

SAE J1044 World Manufacturer Identifier

SAE J1229 Truck Identification Terminology

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Divider

A symbol, character, or physical border to separate the sections of the VIN or to define the limits (beginning and end) of the VIN.

3.2 Engine Type

A code determined by the vehicle manufacturer to uniquely identify the vehicle power source

3.3 Field

A set of character positions reserved for a specific element of information.

3.4 Sequential Number

A production number assigned to the vehicle.

3.5 Vehicle Descriptor Section (VDS)

The second section of the VIN. It provides information describing the general attributes of the vehicle.

3.6 Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN)

The number assigned to a vehicle by the manufacturer primarily for registration and identification purposes. It may consist of numerals, letters, or a combination thereof (see SAE J853).

3.7 Vehicle Indicator Section (VIS)

The third section of the VIN. It is a combination of characters assigned by the manufacturer, which, in conjunction with the WMI and VDS distinguishes one vehicle from another.

3.8 World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI)

The first section of the VIN consisting of a code designating the manufacturer of the vehicle (see SAE J1044)

3.9 For other basic definitions, see SAE Publications listed under References.