

---

---

**Road vehicles — World manufacturer  
identifier (WMI) code**

*Véhicules routiers — Code d'identification mondiale des constructeurs  
(WMI)*



**PDF disclaimer**

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

This document is a preview generated by EVS



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2009

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 3780 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3780:1983), which has been technically revised.

## Introduction

The original world manufacturer identifier (WMI) code distribution per country was established over 25 years ago, and much has happened since the previous edition of this International Standard was published in 1983:

- some countries no longer exist;
- the automotive industries in some countries (e.g. China) have developed to such an extent that the countries concerned are rapidly using up their original WMI allocations;
- in other countries that were originally allocated many WMIs, this allocation has gone unused due to the lack of a major automotive industry in the country concerned.

In order to address the issue before a critical point is reached, the international agency for the maintenance of WMI codes, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), together with the SAE VIN/WMI committee, has updated and adjusted the WMI code matrix. Annex A contains the amended global WMI code distribution.

In the course of revising this International Standard, the following significant modifications have also been made with respect to the previous edition:

- the separate clauses “Scope” and “Field of application” have been combined into a single Clause 1, and the subsequent clauses have been renumbered accordingly;
- the terms and definitions in Clause 3 have been made more comprehensive and revised in accordance with the state of the art;
- the content of 4.3 has been amended in order to reduce the risk of different interpretations.

# Road vehicles — World manufacturer identifier (WMI) code

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the content and structure of an identifier in order to establish, on a world-wide basis, the identification of road vehicle manufacturers. The world manufacturer identifier (WMI) constitutes the first section of the vehicle identification number (VIN) described in ISO 3779.

This International Standard applies to motor vehicles, towed vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds as defined in ISO 3833.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3779, *Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN) — Content and structure*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 3779 and the following apply.

### 3.1

**world manufacturer identifier**

**WMI**

first section of the vehicle identification number, which designates the manufacturer of the vehicle and is assigned to a vehicle manufacturer in order to allow identification of that manufacturer

NOTE When used in conjunction with the remaining sections of the VIN, the WMI ensures the uniqueness of the VIN for all vehicles manufactured in the world for a period of 30 years.

### 3.2

**national organization**

organization designated by each ISO national member body, and acting on behalf of the international agency responsible for the maintenance of WMI codes, for assignment of the codes

## 4 General characteristics

4.1 The WMI code shall consist of three characters.

The Arabic numerals and capital Roman letters to be used in the VIN shall be limited to the following:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E F G H J K L M N P R S T U V W X Y Z

The letters I, O and Q shall not be used.