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

*Véhicules routiers — Numéro d'identification des véhicules (VIN) —
Contenu et structure*



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Foreword

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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 3779 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 3779:1983), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

In the course of revising this International Standard, the following significant modifications have 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 definition of **manufacturer** (3.5) has been revised in accordance with the state of the art;
- the content of 4.3 [“Vehicle descriptor section (VDS)”] has been clarified;
- Table 1 (“Characters used for designating the year”) has been amended.

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Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN) — Content and structure

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the content and structure of a vehicle identification number (VIN) in order to establish, on a world-wide basis, a uniform identification numbering system for road vehicles.

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 3780, *Road vehicles — World manufacturer identifier (WMI) code*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

vehicle identification number

VIN

structured combination of characters assigned to a vehicle by the manufacturer for identification purposes

3.2

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.

3.3

vehicle descriptor section

VDS

second section of the vehicle identification number, which provides information describing the general attributes of the vehicle

3.4

vehicle indicator section

VIS

third and final section of the vehicle identification number, which constitutes a combination of characters assigned by the manufacturer to distinguish one vehicle from another