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

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



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Foreword

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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.