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Recreational Trailer Vehicle Identification Number System—SAE J1018a

SAE Recommended Practice
Editorial change September 1977

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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.

3.5 Axle Configuration Field—That field in the VIN which signifies the number of axles on a trailer. The number of axles shall be encoded in the VIN. A single wheel trailer shall be specifically encoded and identified as such.

3.6 Series Field—That field in the VIN which identifies the basic series of a given trailer.

4. Requirements

4.1 Vehicle Descriptor Section (VDS)

4.1.1 VEHICLE DESCRIPTOR SECTION (VDS) CONTENT—It shall contain the make identifier, and define type of trailer, axle configuration, basic exterior material, and length of trailer.

4.1.2 VEHICLE DESCRIPTOR SECTION (VDS) STRUCTURE

4.1.2.1 *The Make Identifier* shall be the first field in the VDS.

4.1.2.2 *Type of Trailer* shall be the second field in the VDS.

4.1.2.3 *Axle Configuration* shall be the third field in the VDS.

4.1.2.4 *Series* shall be the fourth field in the VDS.

4.1.2.5 *Length of Trailer* shall be the fifth field in the VDS.

4.1.3 VEHICLE DESCRIPTOR SECTION (VDS) MAXIMUM LENGTH—The number of characters contained in the VDS shall be seven.

4.1.4 VEHICLE DESCRIPTOR SECTION (VDS) CODING

4.1.4.1 *Make Identifier Field*—It shall be a three-character code.

4.1.4.2 *Type of Trailer Field*—It shall be a one-character numeric code.

- 4.1.4.2.1 Numeric one (1) identifies camping trailers
- 4.1.4.2.2 Numeric two (2) identifies travel trailers.
- 4.1.4.2.3 Numeric three (3) identifies fifth wheel travel trailers.
- 4.1.4.2.4 Numeric four (4) identifies utility trailers, excluding van body type.
- 4.1.4.2.5 Numeric five (5) identifies van body type utility trailers.
- 4.1.4.2.6 Numeric six (6) identifies boat trailers.
- 4.1.4.2.7 Numeric seven (7) identifies truck campers.
- 4.1.4.2.8 Numeric eight (8) identifies truck caps.

4.1.4.3 *Axle Configuration Field*—It shall be a one-character numeric code.

4.1.4.3.1 Numeric one (1) identifies one-axle construction.

4.1.4.3.2 Numeric two (2) identifies two-axle construction.

4.1.4.3.3 Numeric three (3) identifies three-axle construction.

4.1.4.3.4 Numeric eight (8) identifies single wheel construction.

4.1.4.3.5 Numeric nine (9) identifies no axle.

4.1.4.4 *Series Field*—It shall be a one character alphabetic code.

4.1.4.5 *Length of Trailer*—It shall be a one character alphabetic code, encoded within specified length ranges:

Code	ft	m
A	Less than 6	Less than 1.8
B	6 to less than 8	1.8 to less than 2.4
C	8 to less than 10	2.4 to less than 3.0
D	10 to less than 12	3.0 to less than 3.6
E	12 to less than 14	3.6 to less than 4.3
F	14 to less than 16	4.3 to less than 4.9
G	16 to less than 18	4.9 to less than 5.5
H	18 to less than 20	5.5 to less than 6.1
J	20 to less than 22	6.1 to less than 6.7
K	22 to less than 24	6.7 to less than 7.3
L	24 to less than 26	7.3 to less than 7.9
M	26 to less than 28	7.9 to less than 8.5
N	28 to less than 30	8.5 to less than 9.1
P	30 to less than 32	9.1 to less than 9.7
R	More than 32	More than 9.7

4.2 Vehicle Indicator Section (VIS)

4.2.1 VEHICLE INDICATOR SECTION (VIS) CONTENT—It shall contain model year, plant of origin, and sequential number.

4.2.2 VEHICLE INDICATOR SECTION (VIS) STRUCTURE—The model year, plant of origin, and sequential numbers shall appear in that sequence.

4.2.3 VEHICLE INDICATOR SECTION (VIS) FIXED LENGTH—The VIS shall contain eight characters.

4.2.4 VEHICLE INDICATOR SECTION (VIS) CODING

4.2.4.1 *Model Year Code Field*—The model year code shall be the first position of the VIS and shown in a one-character alpha field.

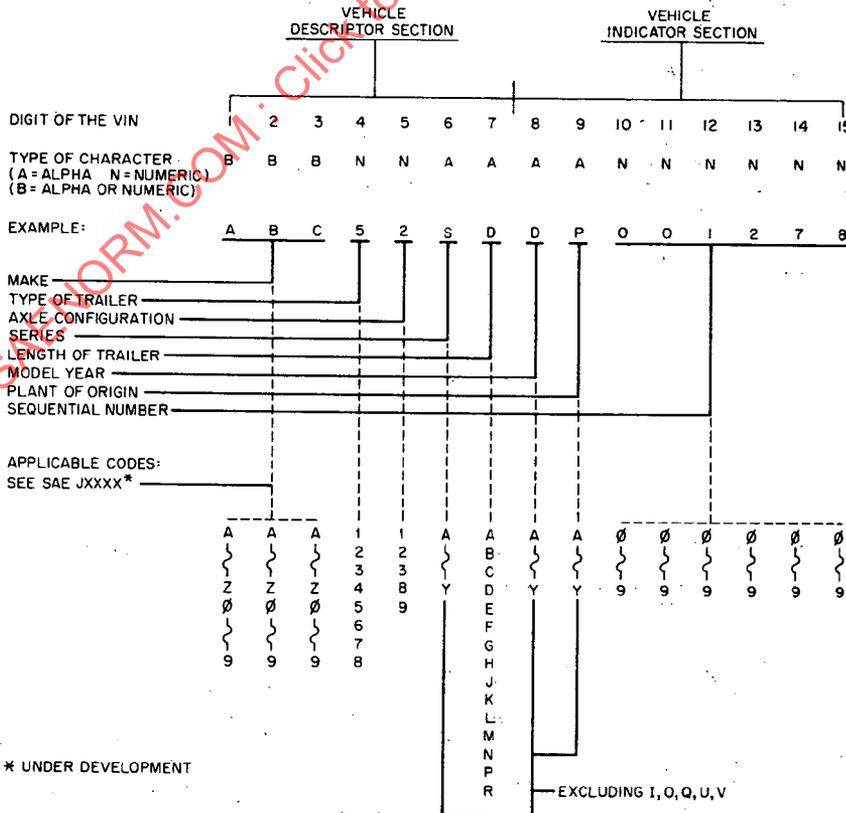


FIG. 1—RECREATIONAL TRAILER VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SYSTEM