

1. Vehicle Identification Number Requirements **49 CFR, §§ 565.1-7**

§ 565.1 Purpose and scope.

This part specifies the format, content and physical requirements for a vehicle identification number (VIN) system and its installation to simplify vehicle identification retrieval and to increase the accuracy and efficiency of vehicle recall campaigns.

§ 565.2 Applicability.

This part applies to passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, buses, trailers (including trailer kits), incomplete vehicles, and motorcycles. Vehicles imported into the United States under 49 CFR 591.5(f), other than by the corporation responsible for the assembly of that vehicle or a subsidiary of such a corporation, are excluded from requirements of Sec. 565.4 (b), Sec. 565.4(c), Sec 565.4(g), Sec. 565.4(h), Sec. 565.5 and Sec. 565.6.

§ 565.3 Definitions.

(a) *Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards Definition.* Unless otherwise indicated, all terms used in this part that are defined 49 CFR 571.3 are used as defined in 49 CFR 571.3.

(b) *Body type* means the general configuration or shape of vehicle distinguished by such characteristics as the number of doors or windows, cargo-carrying features and the roof lines (e.g., sedan, fastback, hatchback).

(c) *Check digit* means a single number or the letter X used to verify the accuracy of the transcription of the vehicle identification number.

(d) *Engine type* means a power source with defined characteristics such as fuel utilized, number of cylinders, displacement, and net brake horsepower. The specific manufacturer and make shall be represented if the engine powers a passenger car or a multipurpose passenger vehicle, or truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of 4536 kg. (10,000 lbs.) or less.

(e) *Incomplete vehicle* means an assemblage consisting, as a minimum, of frame and chassis structure, power train, steering system, suspension system and braking system to the extent that those systems are to be part of the completed vehicle, that requires further manufacturing operations, other than the addition of readily attachable components, such as mirrors or tire and rim assemblies, or minor finishing operations such as painting, to become a completed vehicle.

(f) *Line* means a name that a manufacturer applies to a family of vehicles within a make which have a degree of commonality in construction, such as body, chassis or cab type.

(g) *Make* means a name that a manufacturer applies to a group of vehicles or engines.

(h) *Manufacturer* means a person—

(1) *Manufacturing* or assembling motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment; or

(2) *Importing* motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment for resale.

- (i) *Model* means a name that a manufacturer applies to a family of vehicles of the same type, make, line, series and body type.
- (j) *Model Year* means the year used to designate a discrete vehicle model, irrespective of the calendar year in which the vehicle was actually produced, so long as the actual period is less than two calendar years.
- (k) *Plant of Manufacture* means the plant where the manufacturer affixes the VIN.
- (l) *Series* means a name that a manufacturer applies to a subdivision of a “line” denoting price, size or weight identification and that is used by the manufacturer for marketing purposes.
- (m) *Trailer Kit* means a trailer that is fabricated and delivered incomplete but in unassembled form and that is designed to be assembled without special machinery or tools.
- (n) *Type* means a class of vehicle distinguished by common traits, including design and purpose. Passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, buses, trailers, incomplete vehicles and motorcycles are separate types.
- (o) *VIN* means a series of Arabic numbers and Roman letters that is assigned to a motor vehicle for identification purposes.

§ 565.4 General requirements.

- (a) Each vehicle manufactured in one stage shall have a VIN that is assigned by the manufacturer. Each vehicle manufactured in more than one stage shall have a VIN assigned by the incomplete vehicle manufacturer. Vehicle alterers, as specified in 49 CFR 567.7, shall utilize the VIN assigned by the original manufacturer of the vehicle.
- (b) Each VIN shall consist of seventeen (17) characters.
- (c) A check digit shall be part of each VIN. The check digit shall appear in position nine (9) of the VIN, on the vehicle and on any transfer documents containing the VIN prepared by the manufacturer to be given to the first owner for purposes other than resale.
- (d) The VINs of any two vehicles manufactured within a 30-year period shall not be identical.
- (e) The VIN of each vehicle shall appear clearly and indelibly upon either a part of the vehicle, other than the glazing, that is not designed to be removed except for repair or upon a separate plate or label that is permanently affixed to such a part.
- (f) The VIN for passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles and trucks of 4536 kg or less GVWR shall be located inside the passenger compartment. It shall be readable, without moving any part of the vehicle, through the vehicle glazing under daylight lighting conditions by an observer having 20/20 vision (Snellen) whose eye-point is located outside the vehicle adjacent to the left windshield pillar. Each character in the VIN subject to this paragraph height shall have a minimum height of 4mm.
- (g) Each character in each VIN shall be one of the letter in the set: [ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRSTUVXYZ] or a numeral in the set: [0123456789] assigned according to the method given in Sec. 565.5.

(h) All spaces provided for in the VIN must be occupied by a character specified in paragraph (g) of this section.

(i) The type face utilized for each VIN shall consist of capital, sanserif characters.

§ 565.5 Motor vehicles imported into the United States.

(a) Importers shall utilize the VIN assigned by the original manufacturer of the motor vehicle.

(b) A passenger car certified by a Registered Importer under 49 CFR part 592 shall have a plate or label that contains the following statement, in characters with a minimum height of 4 mm, with the identification number assigned by the original manufacturer provide in the blank: SUBSTITUTE FOR U.S. VIN: SEE PART 565. The plate or label shall conform to Sec. 565.4 (h) and (i). The plate or label shall be permanently affixed inside the passenger compartment. The plate or label shall be readable, without moving any part of the vehicle, through the vehicle glazing under daylight lighting conditions by an observer having 20/20 vision (Snellen) whose eye-joint is located outside the vehicle adjacent to the left windshield pillar. It shall be located in such a manner as not to cover, obscure, or overlay any part of any identification number affixed by the original manufacturer. Passenger cars conforming to Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 115 are exempt from this paragraph.

§ 565.6 Content requirements.

The VIN shall consist of four sections of characters which shall be grouped accordingly:

(a) The first section shall consist of three characters that occupy positions one through three (1–3) in the VIN. This section shall uniquely identify the manufacturer, make and type of the motor vehicle if its manufacturer produces 500 or more motor vehicles of its type annually. If the manufacturer produces less than 500 motor vehicles of its type annually, these characters along with the third, fourth, and fifth characters of the fourth section shall uniquely identify the manufacturer, make and type of the motor vehicle. These characters are assigned in accordance with Sec. 565.7(a).

(b) The second section shall consist of five characters, which occupy positions four through eight (4–8) in the VIN. This section shall uniquely identify the attributes of the vehicle as specified in Table I. For passenger cars, and for multipurpose passenger vehicles and trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 4536 kg. (10,000 lbs.) or less, the first and second characters shall be alphabetic and the third and fourth characters shall be numeric. The fifth character may be either alphabetic or numeric. The characters utilized and their placement within the section may be determined by the manufacturer, but the specified attributes must be decipherable with information supplied by the manufacturer in accordance with Sec. 565.7(c). In submitting the required information to NHTSA relating to gross vehicle weight rating, the designations in Table II shall be used. The use of these designations within the VIN itself is not required.

Table I—Type of Vehicle and Information Decipherable

Passenger car: Line, series, body type, engine type and restraint system type.

Multipurpose passenger vehicle: Line, series, body type, engine type, gross vehicle weight rating.

Truck: Model or line, series, chassis, cab type, engine type, brake system and gross vehicle weight rating.

Bus: Model or line, series, body type, engine type, and brake system

Trailer, including trailer kits and incomplete trailer: Type of trailer, body type, length and axle configuration.

Motorcycle: Type of motorcycle, line, engine type, and net brake horsepower.

Incomplete Vehicle other than a trailer: Model or line, series, cab type, engine type and brake system.

Note to Table I: Engine net brake horsepower when encoded in the VIN shall differ by no more than 10 percent from the actual net brake horsepower; shall in the case of motorcycle with an actual net brake horsepower of 2 or less, be not more than 2; and shall be greater than 2 in the case of a motorcycle with an actual brake horsepower greater than 2.

Table II—Gross Vehicle Weight Rating Classes

Class A	Not greater than 1360 kg. (3,000 lbs.)
Class B	Greater than 1360 kg.–1814 kg. (3,001–4,000 lbs.)
Class C	Greater than 1814 kg.–2268 kg. (4,001–5,000 lbs.)
Class D	Greater than 2268 kg.–2722 kg. (5,001–6,000 lbs.)
Class E	Greater than 2722 kg.–3175 kg. (6,001–7,000 lbs.)
Class F	Greater than 3175 kg.–3629 kg. (7,001–8,000 lbs.)
Class G	Greater than 3629 kg.–4082 kg. (8,001–9,000 lbs.)
Class H	Greater than 4082 kg.–4536 kg. (9,001–10,000 lbs.)
Class 3	Greater than 4536 kg.–6350 kg. (10,001–14,000 lbs.)
Class 4	Greater than 6350 kg.–7257 kg. (14,001–16,000 lbs.)
Class 5	Greater than 7257 kg.–8845 kg. (16,001–19,500 lbs.)
Class 6	Greater than 8845 kg.–11793 kg. (19,501–26,000 lbs.)
Class 7	Greater than 11793 kg.–14968 kg. (26,001–33,000 lbs.)
Class 8	Greater than 14968 kg. (33,001 and over)

(c) The third section shall consist of one character, which occupies position nine (9) in the VIN. This section shall be the check digit whose purpose is to provide a means for verifying the accuracy of any VIN transcription. After all other characters in VIN have been determined by the manufacturer, the check digit shall be calculated by carrying out the mathematical computation specified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (4) of this section.

(1) Assign to each number in the VIN its actual mathematical value and assign to each letter the value specified for it in Table III, as follows:

Table III—Assigned Values

A = 1	J = 1	T = 3
B = 2	L = 2	U = 4
C = 3	L = 3	V = 5
D = 4	M = 4	W = 6
E = 5	N = 5	X = 7
F = 6	P = 7	Y = 8
G = 7	R = 9	Z = 9
H = 8	S = 2	

(2) Multiply the assigned value for each character in the VIN by the position weight factor specified in Table IV, as follows:

Table IV—VIN Position and Weight Factor

1st 8	7th 2	13th 6
2nd 7	8th 10	14th 5
3rd 6	9th (check digit)	15th 4
4th 5	10th 9	16th 3
5th 4	11th 8	17th 2
6th 3	12th 7	

(3) Add the resulting products and divide the total by 11.

(4) The numerical remainder is the check digit. If the remainder is 10 the letter “X” shall be used to designate the check digit. The correct numeric remainder, zero through nine (0–9) or the letter “X”, shall appear in VIN position nine (9).

(5) A sample check digit calculation is shown in Table V as follows:

Table V—Calculation of a Check Digit

VIN Positions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Sample VIN	1	G	4	A	H	5	9	H		5	G	1	1	8	3	4	1	
Assigned Value	1	7	4	1	8	5	9	8		5	7	1	1	8	3	4	1	(Table III)
Weight Factor	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	10	0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	(Table IV)
Add Products	8	49	24	5	32	15	18	80	0	45	56	7	6	40	12	12	2	sum = 411
Divide sum by 11. i.e.: 411/11 = 37 4/11. The numerator of the remainder is "4", this is the check digit (9th digit of VIN)																		

(d) The fourth section shall consist of eight characters, which occupy positions ten through seventeen (10–17) of the VIN. The last five (5) characters of this section shall be numeric for passenger cars and for multipurpose passenger vehicles and trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 4536 kg. (10,000 lbs.) or less, and the last four (4) characters shall be numeric for all other vehicles.

(1) The first character of the fourth section shall represent the vehicle model year. The year shall be designated as indicated in Table VI as follows:

Table VI—Year Codes for VIN

1980	A	1992	N	2003	3
1981	B	1993	P	2004	4
1982	C	1994	R	2005	5
1983	D	1995	S	2006	6
1984	E	1996	T	2007	7
1985	F	1997	V	2008	8
1986	G	1998	W	2009	9
1987	H	1999	X	2010	A
1988	J	2000	Y	2011	B
1989	K	2001	1	2012	C
1990	L	2002	2	2013	D
1991	M				

(2) The second character of the fourth section shall represent the plant of manufacture.

(3) The third through the eighth characters of the fourth section shall represent the number sequentially assigned by the manufacturer in the production process if the manufacturer produces 500 or more vehicles of its type annually. If the manufacturer produces less than 500 motor vehicles of its type annually, the third, fourth and fifth characters of the fourth section, combined with the three characters of the first section, shall uniquely identify the manufacturer, make and type of the motor vehicle and the sixth, seventh, and eighth characters of the fourth section shall represent the number sequentially assigned by the manufacturer in the production process.

§ 565.7 Reporting requirements.

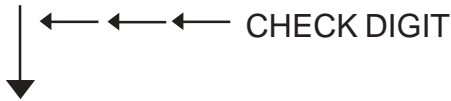
(a) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has contracted with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) to coordinate the assignment of manufacturer identifiers. Manufacturer identifiers will be supplied by SAE at no charge. All requests for assignments of manufacturer identifiers should be forwarded directory to: Society of Automotive Engineers, 400 Commonwealth Avenue, Warrendale, Pennsylvania 15096-0001, Attention: WMI Coordinator, phone: (724) 776-4841. Any requests for identifiers submitted to NHTSA will be forwarded to SAE. Manufacturers may request a specific identifier or may request only assignment of an identifier(s). SAE will review requests for specific identifiers to determine that they do not conflict with an identifiers already assigned or block of identifiers already reserved. SAE will confirm the assignments in writing to the requester. Once confirmed by SAE, the identifier need not be resubmitted to NHTSA.

(b) Manufacturers of vehicles subject to this part shall submit, either directly or through an agent, the unique identifier for each make and type of vehicle it manufactures at least 60 days before affixing the first VIN using the identifier. Manufacturers whose unique identifier appears in the fourth section of the VIN shall also submit the three characters of the first section that constitutes part of their identifier.

(c) Manufacturers of vehicles subject to the requirements of this part shall submit to NHTSA the information necessary to decipher the characters contained in its VINs. Amendments to this information shall be submitted to the agency for VINs containing an amended coding. The agency will not routinely provide written approvals of these submissions, but will contact the manufacturer should any corrections to these submissions be necessary.

(d) The information required under paragraph (c) of this section shall be submitted at least 60 days prior to offering for sale the first vehicle identified by a VIN containing that information, or if information concerning vehicle characteristics sufficient to specify the VIN code is unavailable to the manufacturer by that date, then within one week after that information first becomes available. The information shall be addressed to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Room 6115, Washington, DC 20590, Attention: VIN Coordinator.

CHECK DIGIT CALCULATIONS WORKSHEET



CHARACTER—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ACTUAL VIN—																	
CONVERTED VALUES FROM TABLE III—	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	10	0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2

= sum of products

MULTIPLIER (x)-
PRODUCT—

$$\frac{\text{sum of products}}{\text{divided by 11}} = 33 \text{ plus } 7/11\text{ths}$$

your answer will be a different value than this sample

IF WHOLE NUMBER AND FRACTION IS: 33 7/11

THE CHECK DIGIT IS "7"

(THE UPPER NUMBER OF THE FRACTION IS THE NUMERATOR. THE DENOMINATOR IS THE CHECK DIGIT)

Table III—Alphabetic to Numeric Conversion Values

A = 1	J = 1	T = 3
B = 2	K = 2	U = 4
C = 3	L = 3	V = 5
D = 4	M = 4	W = 6
E = 5	N = 5	X = 7
F = 6	P = 7	Y = 8
G = 7	R = 9	Z = 9
H = 8	S = 2	

EXAMPLE: SAE assigned a ____ digit World Manufacturing Identifier (WMI) _____ to a trailer manufacturer. (____ goes in columns 1-3, and ____ goes in columns 12-14). _____ has elected to code body type in column _____. Series/frame in column _____. Length in columns _____. Axles in column _____.

The characters utilized and their placements are determined by the manufacturer, but must include the required attributes for vehicle type (i.e. type = trailer, type = school bus, type = motorcycle, etc.) as referred to in 49 CFR 571.3, "Definitions." VIN information is found in 49 CFR 565, "VIN identification."

SAMPLE PLACEMENT OF INFORMATION IN MANUFACTURER'S VIN																		
VIN Identification Submission is required 49 CFR 565.7(d)																		
SECTION TITLE	1 st Section			2 nd Section					3 rd Section	4 th Section								
	World Manufacturing Identifier			Vehicle Descriptor					Check Digit	Model Year	Plant	Sequential Production (may include WMI)						
CHARACTER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
TYPE (character)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N	N	N	N	
A= Alphabetical N= Numerical B= Alphabetical or Numerical	World Manufacturing Identifier (WMI) assigned by SAE phone: (724) 776-4841			Trailers (include this data) 1. type of trailer chassis i.e.: angle iron bumper pull 2. body type i.e.: boat trailer, horse trailer, platform trailer 3. overall length of trailer in feet 4. Quantity of axles i.e.: 1=single axle, 2=dual axle					Check Digit Refer to: 49 CFR-565.4	Model Year i.e. 3=2003 4=2004 5=2005 6=2006	Location of plant that affixes VIN	WMI assigned by SAE if factory produces less than 500 vehicles produced a year	Sequential production sequence beginning at starting number of manufacturer's choice					
	Refer to 49 CFR 565 for Table I, II, IV, V, and VI											Sequential production sequence beginning at starting number of manufacturer's choice						
Abbreviations: BP=bumper pull, GN= goose neck, ST= semi-trailer, trl=trailer, pos'n= position																		
Contents of vehicle descriptor information used to decipher VIN (positions 4 thru 8)									10 position (49 CFR 565.6 Table III)									
4 th pos'n= Type of trailer, series: (A=round tube BP, B=angle iron BP, C=eye beam GN) (D=galvanized rectangular tube BP, E=trailer kit)									(Code Model Year)			(Code Model Year)			(Code Model Year)			
5 th pos'n=Body type: A=flat bed utility, B=boat trl, C=car trl, D=concrete rear dump trl									A – 1980		M – 1991		1 – 2001					
6 th & 7 th pos'n= Length in feet: 09=nine ft, 17=seventeen ft (from tow ball to rear of trl)									B – 1981		N – 1992		2 – 2002					
8 th pos'n=Number of axles: 1=single axle, 2= tandem axle, 3= triple axle, etc.									C – 1982		P – 1993		3 – 2003					
A trailer manufacturer may devise a suitable variation of this sample vehicle descriptor, as long as type/series, body type, length in feet and number of axles are properly identified.									D – 1983		R – 1994		4 – 2004					
									E – 1984		S – 1995		5 – 2005					
									F – 1985		T – 1996		6 – 2006					
									G – 1986		V – 1997		7 – 2007					
									H – 1987		W – 1998		8 – 2008					
									J – 1988		X – 1999		9 – 2009					
									K – 1989		Y – 2000		A – 2010					
									L – 1990				B – 2011					
													C – 2012					
													D – 2013					
Refer to 49 CFR 565 for complete instructions about constructing a VIN and submitting information to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.																		

Note: This document is intended to be used as a general reference only and does not necessarily provide all regulations on the subject. This document is not intended to give legal advice. NATM assumes no responsibility for any inaccurate information or omissions.