



Standard Specification for Bicycle Serial Numbers¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This standard specifies the format, content, number of characters and physical requirements for serial numbers to facilitate recall campaigns and identification of stolen property.

1.2 This standard is applicable to all bicycles, refer to Classification F2043 on definition for bicycle.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

F2043 Classification for Bicycle Usage

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—General bicycle terminology appears in Classification F2043.

3.2 *Definitions*:

3.2.1 *make*—name under which the vehicle is sold. This could be either manufacturer, importer, retailer, or all of the above.

3.2.2 *model*—a name that a manufacturer applies to a family of vehicles of the same make and type.

3.2.3 *month of manufacture*—western calendar month in which the serial number is affixed to the frame.

3.2.4 *obscurement*—of serial number indicates that a bicycle component needs to be removed in order to view the number.

3.2.5 *plant of manufacture*—indicates the location where the serial number is affixed to the frame.

3.2.6 *year of manufacture*—western calendar year in which the serial number was affixed to the frame.

4. General Requirements

4.1 Each character in each serial number shall be one of the letters in the set: [ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPRSTUVWXYZ], or a numeral in the set: [0123456789] assigned according to the method described in 5.1. Letters I, O and Q are intentionally omitted.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

4.2 All spaces provided for in the eleven digit serial number must be occupied by a character specified in 4.1, a dash, or an asterisk.

4.3 The typeface for each serial number, SN plus eleven characters, shall consist of uppercase characters. The characters must be visible to the naked eye from a distance of 45 cm (18 in.) after coating and without obscurement.

4.4 The SN followed by eleven character serial number must be reported as one line. No additional identification markings may begin with SN or be on the same line as the serial number.

5. Content Requirements

5.1 *Form*—The serial number shall possess the following form:

SN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

where the eleven alphanumeric characters have the following allocations:

1,2,3—Unique make, manufacturer, and plant of manufacturer code. The three zero characters, 000, denote that this information is unspecified within the serial number, and are used where this unique code has not been previously established.

4,5—Year of manufacture, last two digits of western calendar year.

6—Month of manufacture, where:

A = January	E = May	J = September
B = February	F = June	K = October
C = March	G = July	L = November
D = April	H = August	M = December

7,8,9,10,11—Unique five character unit production number, in a format defined by the manufacturer. The manufacturer shall apply five characters, no more and no less, to result in the a serial number length of 13 characters on one line, SN and eleven characters. Additional characters used by the manufacturer shall not be on the same line.

6. Location

6.1 *Location*—The serial number shall be placed, without obscurement, on the outside of the bicycle frame within 15 cm (6 in.) of the axis of rotation of the cranks by means of either engraving, decal, or stamping. In the case of multiple sets of cranks, as in a Tandem, the location is referenced to the forward set.