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**Road vehicles — Standardized access  
to automotive repair and maintenance  
information (RMI) —**

**Part 1:  
General information and use case  
definition**

*Véhicules routiers — Normalisation de l'accès aux informations  
relatives à la réparation et à la maintenance pour l'automobile  
(RMI) —*

*Partie 1: Informations générales et définitions de cas d'utilisation*

ISO 18541-1:2021

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CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Data communication*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 301, *Road vehicles*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18541-1:2014), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- security-related RMI according to SERMI scheme moved to [Annex A](#);
- correction of errors and improvement of formulations in the entire document.

A list of all parts in the ISO 18541 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The ISO 18541 series includes the requirements to be fulfilled by repair and maintenance information (RMI) systems as applied by the European Commission — Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General, Consumer goods — Automotive industry EC mandate M/421,<sup>[5]</sup> dated Brussels, 21 January 2008.

This mandate relates to the EC type-approval system for vehicles falling into the scopes of Directives 70/156/EEC (replaced by 2007/46/EC <sup>[8]</sup>), 2002/24/EC [replaced by (EU) 168/2013 <sup>[6]</sup>] and 2003/37/EC [replaced by (EU) 167/2013 <sup>[7]</sup>] and, in particular, to requirements for access to vehicle repair and maintenance information by independent operators.

The purpose of the EC Mandate M/421 is to develop a standard or set of standards which specify the requirements to provide standardized access to automotive repair and maintenance information (RMI) for independent operators.

The ISO 18541 series only covers access to automotive repair and maintenance information for light passenger and commercial vehicles [see (EC) No 715/2007 <sup>[15]</sup>, (EC) No 692/2008 <sup>[14]</sup> and (EU) No 566/2011 <sup>[11]</sup>] and heavy-duty vehicles [see (EC) No 595/2009 <sup>[13]</sup>, (EU) No 582/2011 <sup>[12]</sup> and (EU) No 64/2012<sup>[9]</sup>] based on Directive 2007/46/EC <sup>[8]</sup> and for two-or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles based on regulation (EU) 168/2013 <sup>[6]</sup>.

The information included in the ISO 18541 series derives from the legislative requirements on European level in the field of RMI and related security requirements and can be referenced by legislation in other countries.

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# Road vehicles — Standardized access to automotive repair and maintenance information (RMI) —

## Part 1: General information and use case definition

### 1 Scope

This document provides a general overview and structure of each part of the ISO 18541 series. This document also describes the use cases applicable to the standardized access to automotive RMI. The use cases address real world scenarios (e.g. servicing vehicles) regarding the information access necessary to perform vehicle roadside assistance, inspection, diagnosis, repair and maintenance, including the updating and replacement of electronic control units (ECU).

Furthermore, this document defines requirements for granting access to security-related RMI in [Annex A](#) following the SERMI scheme.

The RMI systems used by personnel to perform the services consist of:

- a web-based system, which provides access to RMI needed to perform the service(s);
- contact information for specific RMI;
- a security framework to protect access to security-related RMI (vehicle theft protection measures).

This document is applicable to light passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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/IEC 9594-8, *Information technology — Open systems interconnection — Part 8: The Directory: Public key and attribute certificate frameworks*

ISO 18541-2, *Road vehicles — Standardized access to automotive repair and maintenance information (RMI) — Part 2: Technical requirements*

### 3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

**3.1**  
**access level**

level of access to *repair and maintenance information* (3.37) which is either related to security or not related to security

EXAMPLE One might consider an access to RMI related to security and another one to RMI not related to security. They represent two different access levels.

**3.2**  
**accessory**

supplementary feature and component selected by a vehicle owner to enhance safety, performance, comfort, etc. and whose fitting does not impact the vehicle approval

**3.3**  
**alternative fuel**

type of fuel that is either gaseous at atmospheric temperature and pressure or substantially non-mineral oil derived

Note 1 to entry: Adopted from Regulation (EC) 715/2007 [15].

**3.4**  
**alternative fuels retrofit system**

engine system mounted on an already registered vehicle for the purpose of operation with *alternative fuels* (3.3)

**3.5**  
**alternative fuels system manufacturer**

manufacturer of an engine system operating with an *alternative fuel* (3.3)

**3.6**  
**appropriate software level**

applicable software version for the individual vehicle

**3.7**  
**authorized repairer**

provider of repair and maintenance services for motor vehicles operating within the distribution system set up by a supplier of motor vehicles

Note 1 to entry: See Regulation (EC) 461/2010 Article 1 (1)(c) [10].

**3.8**  
**certificate**

electronic document which uses a digital signature to bind a public key with an identity

**3.9**  
**converted vehicle**

factory-produced vehicle which has been altered by the addition, deletion, substitution or modification of the body, chassis or essential parts that resembles, but is no longer identical to, the original vehicle for a special purpose

Note 1 to entry: The purpose of the alteration (s) can be, for example to act as rescue vehicle or taxicab.

**3.10**  
**diagnostic information**

description of an error or symptom and a list of potential causes or hints for further investigation to the same level and content as provided to the *authorized repairer* (3.7)



**3.11****diagnostic trouble code****DTC**

numeric or alphanumeric identifier which identifies or labels a malfunction

[SOURCE: GTR No 5, [\[16\]](#) definition 3.6]

**3.12****electronic maintenance history**

digital *information package* ([3.18](#)) with virtual stamps that confirms the execution of the prescribed maintenance actions according to the *vehicle manufacturer's* ([3.45](#)) schedule

**3.13****independent operator****IO**

company or legal entity other than authorized dealers and repairers who is directly or indirectly involved in the repair and maintenance of motor vehicles

EXAMPLE Repairers, manufacturers or distributors of repair equipment, tools or spare parts, publishers of technical information, automobile clubs, roadside assistance operators, operators offering inspection and testing services, operators offering training for installers, manufacturers and repairers of equipment for *alternative fuel* ([3.3](#)) vehicles.

**3.14****IO approval**

process by which, upon payment of a reasonable and proportionate fee, the CAB sanctions or approves a legitimate commercial enterprise to engage in *security-related RMI* ([3.38](#)) activities

**3.15****IO authorization**

process by which, upon payment of a reasonable and proportionate fee, the CAB assesses that an individual employee of an approved *independent operator* ([3.13](#)) complies with the requirements specified in this document and is entitled to be given access to *security-related RMI* ([3.38](#))

Note 1 to entry: As part of this authorization, the individual employee will be allocated, upon payment of a reasonable and proportionate fee, a secure hardware token containing a personal digital *certificate* ([3.8](#)) and a PIN that will be supplied by the trust centre.

**3.16****IO commercial re-user**

entity that is acting as a *redistributor* ([3.33](#)) or a *republisher* ([3.36](#))

**3.17****IO legal representative**

natural person empowered to legally represent the *independent operator* ([3.13](#)) in all aspects of the access to the *vehicle repair and maintenance information* ([3.35](#))

**3.18****information package**

collection of information provided by the *VM's RMI system* ([3.46](#)) in response to a specific request

**3.19****information type**

category, group or set of information

EXAMPLE *Workshop procedures* ([3.47](#)) (for body repair, temporary repair, periodic technical inspection), wiring diagrams, *technical service bulletins* ([3.41](#)), *recall* ([3.32](#)) information and maintenance information.

### 3.20

#### **integrated diagnostics**

process which interprets via an integrated application the memory content of ECUs and provides a diagnostic and repair recommendation

Note 1 to entry: Diagnostic application and *VM RMI systems* (3.46) cooperate online, so technical information is provided during the diagnostics process and used for the diagnostic steps.

### 3.21

#### **IO employee**

natural person employed by the *independent operator* (3.13)

### 3.22

#### **light commercial vehicle**

motor vehicle intended for the transport of goods or passengers with a maximum mass not exceeding 3,5 tonnes

### 3.23

#### **light passenger vehicle**

vehicle according to category M1 ( $\leq 8$  passenger seats except driver seat)

Note 1 to entry: Category M1 is defined in the United Nations Economic and Social Council World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) TRANS/WP.29/78/Rev.2.

### 3.24

#### **maintenance history**

history of the performed, prescribed actions for maintaining a vehicle

EXAMPLE Oil changes and other periodic maintenance.

### 3.25

#### **maintenance schedule**

prescribed sequence of maintenance actions for a vehicle following the requirements of the manufacturer

### 3.26

#### **OBD**

on-board diagnostics

system on board a vehicle or engine which can detect malfunctions and, if applicable, indicates their occurrence by means of an alert system, identifying the likely area of the malfunctions by means of information stored in computer memory, and/or communicating that information off-board

Note 1 to entry: Module 'A' of GTR No.5 [16] concerns the whole vehicle. By referring to that module, the OBD definition is understood as not being restricted to emissions.

### 3.27

#### **partnered accessory**

*accessory* (3.2) which has been tested, quality assured and certified by the *vehicle manufacturer* (3.45) and for which the VM assumes product liability

### 3.28

#### **potential repair description**

list of potential causes and possible actions recommended to fix a problem

### 3.29

#### **product feature**

feature of a specific vehicle that may be used for navigation through the *VM RMI system* (3.46)

EXAMPLE Engine type (petrol/diesel), transmission type (manual/automatic).

**3.30****product structure**

inter-related set of units and sub-units in which a vehicle can be divided

Note 1 to entry: The product structure is *vehicle manufacturer* (3.45) specific.

**3.31****PTI service****periodic technical inspection service**

particular procedure for testing a vehicle during a PTI

EXAMPLE Procedure for testing brake lights.

**3.32****recall**

process whereby a *vehicle manufacturer* (3.45) notifies all owners of a specific vehicle of a condition or defect that could affect safety, safe operation or environmental issues of that vehicle

**3.33****redistributor**

*independent operator* (3.13) offering *repair and maintenance information* (3.35) within their own internal (closed) network

EXAMPLE RAC, ADAC, garage networks.

**3.34****remanufacturing**

process of overhauling an engine, major assembly or component, to return the engine, major assembly or component to the *vehicle manufacturer's* (3.45) original specification

**3.35****RMI****repair and maintenance information**

all information required for diagnosis, servicing, inspection, periodic monitoring, repair, re-programming or re-initialising of the vehicle and which the manufacturers provide for their authorized dealers and repairers, including all subsequent amendments and supplements to such information

Note 1 to entry: This information includes all information required for fitting parts or equipment on vehicles.

[SOURCE: (EC) 715/2007<sup>[15]</sup>, article 3.14]

**3.36****republisher**

*independent operator* (3.13) who publishes *repair and maintenance information* (3.35) to an external network using the RMI of the *vehicle manufacturer* (3.45)

**3.37****security framework**

set of processes, roles and technical devices for access to *security-related RMI* (3.38)

Note 1 to entry: The framework is based on the approval and authorization of *independent operators* (3.13) to access security-related RMI at the *VM RMI system* (3.46). The physical access to the VM RMI system for security-related RMI is bound to a digital *certificate* (3.8).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex A](#) for requirements for granting access to security-related information according to the SERMI scheme.

**3.38****security-related RMI**

RMI (3.35) related to vehicle theft protection measures

### 3.39

#### **selection method**

possible method of selecting *repair and maintenance information* ([3.35](#))

EXAMPLE Searches for a term in the document titles, *information type* ([3.19](#)), document ID or other criteria.

### 3.40

#### **standardized non-proprietary VCI functionality**

current standards for communication with a vehicle

EXAMPLE ISO 22900-2, SAE J2534-1, SAE J2534-2.

### 3.41

#### **technical service bulletin**

##### **TSB**

bulletin issued by the manufacturer detailing a fix for a known concern

Note 1 to entry: The bulletin is for informational purposes only.

### 3.42

#### **temporary repair procedure**

temporary solution to a problem that is usually available at roadside services

EXAMPLE Closing the roof of a convertible.

### 3.43

#### **VCI functionality**

vehicle communication interface functionality

set of functions to provide communication between vehicle systems and a software application for diagnostics or reprogramming according to the requirements specified in ISO 18541-2

### 3.44

#### **VIN**

vehicle identification number

unique 17-character serial number given by the *vehicle manufacturer* ([3.45](#)) to identify individual motor vehicles

### 3.45

#### **VM**

#### **vehicle manufacturer**

person or body who is responsible to the approval authority for all aspects of the type approval or authorization process and for ensuring conformity of production of a vehicle

Note 1 to entry: It is not essential that the person or body be directly involved in all stages of the construction of the vehicle, system, component or separate technical unit which is the subject of the approval process.

[SOURCE: 2007/46/EC, [\[8\]](#) article 3.27]

### 3.46

#### **vehicle manufacturer repair and maintenance information system**

##### **VM RMI system**

information system by which the *vehicle manufacturer* ([3.45](#)) provides access to *repair and maintenance information* ([3.35](#)) through a website

### 3.47

#### **workshop procedure**

information provided by a *vehicle manufacturer* ([3.45](#)) describing specific repair and maintenance

EXAMPLE Repair procedures, working advice or other instructions.