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# International Standard



# 3780

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION • МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ • ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

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

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

Second edition — 1983-04-01

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Descriptors : road vehicles, trailers, manufacturers, international identification number.

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO member bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been set up 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 3780 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*.

The first edition (ISO 3780-1976) had been approved by the member bodies of the following countries:

Austria	France	Romania
Belgium	Germany, F. R.	South Africa, Rep. of
Brazil	Ghana	Spain
Bulgaria	Hungary	Sweden
Canada	Iran	Switzerland
Chile	Italy	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Japan	USA
Finland	Netherlands	Yugoslavia

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No member body had expressed disapproval of the document.

This second edition, which cancels and replaces ISO 3780-1976, incorporates draft Amendment 1, which was circulated to the member bodies in January 1982 and has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries:

Australia	Germany, F. R.	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Brazil	Ireland	South Africa, Rep. of
Canada	Italy	Spain
China	Japan	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Korea, Rep. of	Switzerland
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Netherlands	USA
France	New Zealand	USSR

The member bodies of the following countries expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds:

Austria  
Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of  
United Kingdom

# Road vehicles — World manufacturer identifier (WMI) code

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## 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. This identifier (WMI) is the first section of the vehicle identification number (VIN) described in ISO 3779.

## 2 Field of application

This International Standard applies to motor vehicles, trailers, motorcycles and mopeds as defined in ISO 3833.

## 3 References

ISO 3779, *Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN) — Content and structure.*

ISO 3833, *Road vehicles — Types — Terms and definitions.*

## 4 Definition

**4.1 world manufacturer identifier (WMI):** The first section of the vehicle identification number (VIN), designating the manufacturer of the vehicle. The code is assigned to a vehicle manufacturer in order to allow identification of the said manufacturer and, when used in conjunction with the remaining sections of the VIN, ensures uniqueness of the VIN for all vehicles manufactured in the world for a period of 30 years.

### NOTES

- For convenience, this definition is repeated from ISO 3780.
- The term "manufacturer" is defined in ISO 3779.

## 5 General characteristics required

**5.1** The WMI code shall consist of three characters. Only the following arabic numerals and roman letters shall be used in the VIN:

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.)

**5.2** The assigned WMI codes will be maintained and checked by the International Agency acting under authorization from ISO: the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc., (S.A.E.), 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096, USA.

**5.3** One or more WMI codes will be assigned to each manufacturer responsible for production of vehicles as specified in ISO 3779 by the National Organization of that country in which the manufacturer has his headquarters.

**5.4** A WMI code assigned to a manufacturer must not be assigned to another manufacturer for at least 30 years after the last year in which the code was used.

## 6 Specific characteristics required for the characters in the WMI

### 6.1 First position

An alphabetic or numeric character designating a geographic area. More than one character may be assigned to a geographic area, based on anticipated needs.

*Examples:*

1 to 5:	North America
S to Z:	Europe
A to H:	Africa
J to R:	Asia
6 and 7:	Oceania
8, 9 and 0:	South America

etc.

## 6.2 Second position

An alphabetic or numeric character designating a country within a specific geographic area. More than one character may be assigned to a country, based on anticipated needs. It is necessary to use a combination of the first and second characters to ensure unique identification of the country.

## 6.3 Assignments of the first and second position

The combination(s) of the first and second position shall be assigned to each country by the International Agency.

*Examples*<sup>1)</sup>:

10 to 19:	USA
1A to 1Z:	USA
2A to 2W:	Canada
3A to 3W:	Mexico
W0 to W9:	Germany, F.R.
WA to WZ:	Germany, F.R.

etc.

## 6.4 Third position

**6.4.1** An alphabetic or numeric character assigned by the National Organization to designate a specific manufacturer. It is necessary to use a combination of the first, second and third characters to ensure unique identification of the manufacturer.

**6.4.2** The number 9 in this position shall be used by each National Organization to permit identification of all manufacturers producing fewer than 500 vehicles per year. For such a manufacturer, the 3rd, 4th and 5th characters of the VIS (third section of the VIN defined in ISO 3779) shall be assigned by the National Organization and will identify the specific manufacturer.

## 7 Implementation of WMI code assignments

The implementation of WMI code assignments will be covered in a future International Standard.

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1) These examples are given for illustration purposes only and may differ from characters which are actually assigned. Assignments of the first and second positions of the WMI are made by the International Agency.