

Vehicle identification

1-1 VIN and chassis number

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Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

- Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002

Mandatory requirements

- A vehicle first registered or re-registered in New Zealand before 1 April 1994 must have a chassis number or VIN.
- A vehicle first registered or re-registered in New Zealand from 1 April 1994 must have a VIN.

Condition

- A VIN or chassis number must not have been removed, erased, altered, defaced, obscured, destroyed, obliterated or affixed unlawfully or unauthorised.

Reasons for rejection

Mandatory requirements

- A vehicle first registered or re-registered in New Zealand before 1 April 1994 does not have a VIN or chassis number (**Note 1**).
- A vehicle first registered or re-registered in New Zealand from 1 April 1994 does not have a VIN number (**Note 1**).
- A VIN number is not valid (**Note 2**).

Condition

- A VIN or chassis number has been (**Notes 1 and 3**):
 - removed, or
 - erased, or
 - altered, or
 - defaced, or
 - obscured, or
 - destroyed, or
 - obliterated, or
 - affixed unlawfully or by unauthorised persons (**Note 3**).

Note 1 The VIN is normally found on the outside of the chassis adjacent to the right front wheel. If the vehicle is unfamiliar, and the VIN or chassis number cannot be located, the vehicle inspector should contact the manufacturer's agent or the local VIN issuing agent.

Note 2 A vehicle without a VIN or chassis number must be referred to a VIN issuing agent (VTNZ, VINZ, NZAA or Safer Vehicle Testing) to have a VIN attached if:

- the vehicle does not have a VIN or chassis number, or
- the VIN or chassis number has become illegible.

Note 3 A valid VIN is a unique number that has been assigned to the vehicle in the vehicle's country of origin or by a person appointed by the NZTA. It consists of 17 characters that never contain the letters I, O or Q, and that is capable of being decoded to provide identifying information about the vehicle.

Note 4 The vehicle inspector must advise the local police if there is reason to believe that the VIN or chassis number has been tampered with in any way.

Important Ensure that the VIN or chassis number is recorded in full on the checksheet. This number must be:

- the VIN if fitted – not the chassis number (locally allocated VIN),
- the stamped VIN on the VIN plate or chassis.

Vehicle identification

1-1 VIN and chassis number (cont.)

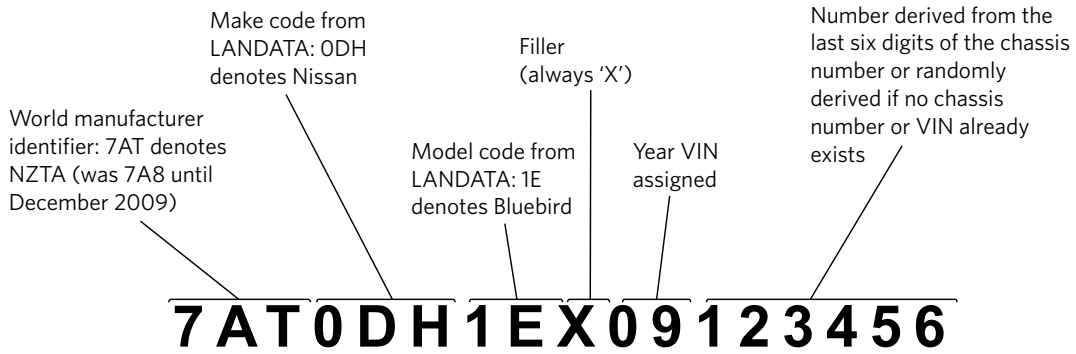


Figure 1-1-1. Structure of a VIN issued by the NZ Transport Agency

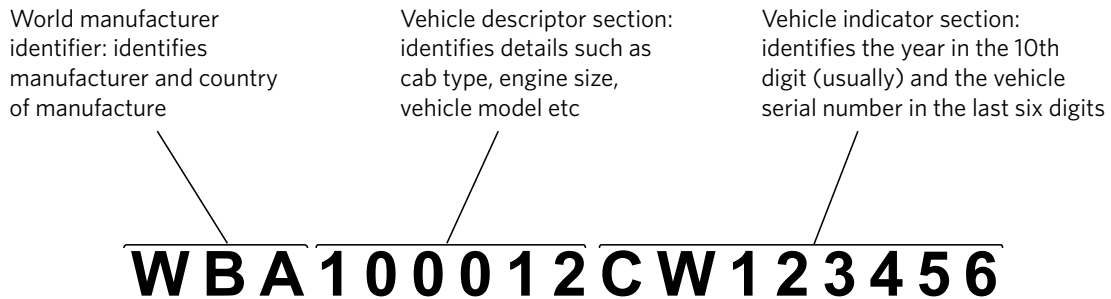


Figure 1-1-2. Structure of a VIN issued by the vehicle manufacturer