

## Guide/Template

### Part 565 Vehicle Identification Number- U.S. Trailer Co.

Import & Certification Division  
(NVS-223)

VIN Deciphering Submission – _____ ( Company Name)		
<b>1st Section</b>		
Position 1	WMI	___ -- Assigned by SAE
Position 2	WMI	___ -- Assigned by SAE
Position 3	WMI	___ -- Assigned by SAE
<b>2nd Section</b>		
Position 4	Type of Trailer (For all trailer types, the MAKE Name is: "_____")	___ = Ball Type Pull ___ = Pintle Hitch ___ = Gooseneck ___ = Straight Semi ___ = Fifth Wheel ___ = Kingpin
Position 5	Body Type	___ = Snowmobile Trailer ___ = Boat Trailer ___ = Car Hauler Trailer ___ = Dump Trailer ___ = Enclosed Trailer ___ = Flatbed Trailer ___ = Curtain Side Trailer ___ = Hydraulic Dovetail ___ = Double Drop Trailer ___ = Camper Trailer ___ = Lowboy Trailer
Position 6 & 7	Length	06 = 6 feet long 09 = 9 feet long 26 = 26 feet long 31 = 31 feet long
Position 8	Number of Axles	___ = Single Axle ___ = 2 Axles ___ = 3 Axles
<b>3rd Section</b>		
Position 9	Check Digit Calculated See 49 CFR 565.15(c)	
<b>4th Section</b>		
Position 10	Model Year	A=2010 B=2011 C=2012 D=2013 E=2014
Position 11	Plant Location (City/State)	___ = 43 Sixth St, Baltimore, MD ___ = 19 Lake Rd, Baltimore, MD ___ = Jessup, MD ___ = Towson, MD
Position 12	WMI	___ -Assigned by SAE
Position 13	WMI	___ -Assigned by SAE
Position 14	WMI	___ -Assigned by SAE
Positions 15, 16, & 17	Sequentially Assigned 001, 002, 003, etc.	

Note: If your new company does not have a WMI Code (World Manufacturer Identifier Code), please obtain one by calling SAE at 724-772-7107 and indicate the types of vehicle(s) your company produces.)

Column 3 represents your company's items that you produce and their letter or number code that you assign to each item.  
(Note: Never use capital letters I, O, Q in your coding.)

Therefore create a similar template and follow the attached Instructions. Please remember:

Do not simply copy these items in column 3. These are examples. Only list the items you produce and give it a letter or number code. DO NOT LIST ITEMS YOU DO NOT PRODUCE.

(Note: You can always submit a revised or updated PART 565-VIN Decoding chart when you have additional new items produced in the future with their newly assigned letter or number code.)

← You may copy this verbiage as the check digit will always change with each VIN number created for each vehicle/trailer produced.

← Keep these Model Year codes which are dictated by regulation.

← Erase examples and give the City & State for each plant and assign each with a letter or number code.

## Instructions for Filling in Your Company's Codes in the Third Column

(NOTE: In assigning letter or number codes, **NEVER USE Capitol Letters I, O, Q.** However, you can use the numbers one (1) and zero (0).)

**Step 1: A. If your WMI Code is 6 characters,** then you are a **low volume manufacturer** producing 999 or less trailers (motor vehicles) per model year. Follow this instruction:

**For VIN Positions 1, 2 & 3 and 12, 13, 14—fill in your WMI Code.**

**B. If your WMI Code is 3 characters,** then you are a **high volume manufacturer** producing 1,000 or more trailers (motor vehicles) per model year. Follow this instruction:

**For VIN Positions 1, 2 & 3, fill in your WMI Code.**

**For VIN Positions 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 change the bottom part of the chart to this** to reflect the sequentially assigned numbers given to each trailer coming off the assembly line:

Positions 12 thru 17	Sequentially Assigned	000001, 000002, 000003, etc.

**Step 2 -- For VIN Position 4—Type of Trailer:** In Column 2 within the parenthesis, type in the MAKE Name for all your company's trailers. Usually the MAKE Name is the company's name, such as *Ford* for the Ford Motor Company, *Toyota* for Toyota Motor Co.

**"Type of Trailer" means the connector or tongue.** In **Column 3**, list only the connectors your company uses on the trailers it produces. We list some examples in the template. Only list what you use and assign it a letter or number code next to each connector or tongue. Remember, never use letters I, O, Q.

**Step 3 -- For VIN Position 5— Body Type:** **"Body Type" means the purpose of the trailer** or what is it used for. In **Column 3**, list only the body types your company produces, such as *tank trailer*. We list some examples in the template. Only list what you produce and assign it a letter or number code next to each body type.

**Step 4 -- For VIN Positions 6 & 7— Length.** **"Length" means the length of the trailer in feet from the front of the connector to the end of the trailer.** Your coding can reflect the actual length in feet such as the examples in the template. In **Column 3**, list the various lengths (in feet) that your company produces and give the two-character code. For example: 05= 5 feet ; 03=3 feet, 15=15 feet, 37= 37 feet etc.)

**Step 5 -- For VIN Positions 8— Number of Axles.** In **Column 3**, list the number of axles that are used on each of your company's trailers and assign each number a letter or number code.

**Step 6 -- For VIN Position 9—Check Digit:** In **Column 3**, copy the wording from the template chart as the check digit has to be calculated for each VIN number of each trailer coming off the production line.

**Note:** When you create the VIN numbers for each trailer produced, **always double check your calculations** to ensure an accurate check digit and thus an accurate VIN number. For more information, see pages 17-18 of the requirements handbook at:

(continue)

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/DOT/NHTSA/Rulemaking/Articles/Associated%20Files/newManf.pdf>

[Also note: If you assign an incorrect VIN, you will need to issue a VIN correction letter to each owner of a trailer with an erroneous VIN, and a copy of the letter must be filed with the NHTSA VIN Coordinator and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. For more information, see the 4-page brochure at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/rules/import/VIN%20ERRORS.pdf> ].

**Step 7 -- For VIN Position 10—Model Year:** You must use the codes listed in the template. These codes are specified in our regulations (49 CFR Part 565.15, Table VII). For additional codes, see the bottom chart on page 19 of the handbook or consult the regulation.

**Step 8 -- For VIN Position 11—Plant Location:** Identify the **city and state** for each plant location and assign a letter or number code for each. If two or more plants are in the same city, provide the address for each and assign each a separate code.

**Step 9 -- In VIN Positions 12 thru 14: See Step 1 above.**

**Step 10 --In VIN Positions 15, 16, 17— Sequentially Assigned Number:**

**For Low Volume Manufacturer, give examples of the sequentially assigned number** for each trailer coming off the assembly line **or keep the sequential number examples in the template.**

(Note: When you start a new model year, you should return to sequential production number “001”. You have three VIN positions for only three numeric characters. Thus, you can produce up to 999 trailers in one model year.)

**For High Volume Manufacturer, see Step 1-B above.**

(Note: When you start a new model year, you should return to sequential production number “000001”. You have six VIN positions for six numeric characters. Thus, you can produce up to 999,999 trailers in one model year.)

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Part 565—VIN Decoding & Part 566—Manufacturer Identification documents should be emailed to us at: [manufacturerinfo@dot.gov](mailto:manufacturerinfo@dot.gov)

If you are inclined to mail a hard copy of the forms, they may be mailed in to us at:

Department of Transportation (DOT)  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  
Mail Stop: NVS-413 / Vehicle Identification Unit  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.; Room W53-303

Correct submissions will be entered in the database. To search a company's information in the Manufacturer Information database at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/rules/manufacture/> do the following:

In the Manufacturer Name search field, type **a percentage sign (%) followed by one key word from the company's name, followed immediately by another percentage sign (%)**, then hit **Enter** to find the **link(s)** to the company's information. When you see your company's document(s) posted, you may wish to print the document(s) to serve as your confirmation since we do not send out confirmation letters. Thank you.