

# Vehicle identification

1-1 VIN and chassis number



## Vehicle identification

## 1-1 VIN and chassis number

### 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 be 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** A vehicle 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 2** 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 3** 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 - not the VIN etched on the glazing.

# Vehicle identification

## 1-1 VIN and chassis number (cont.)

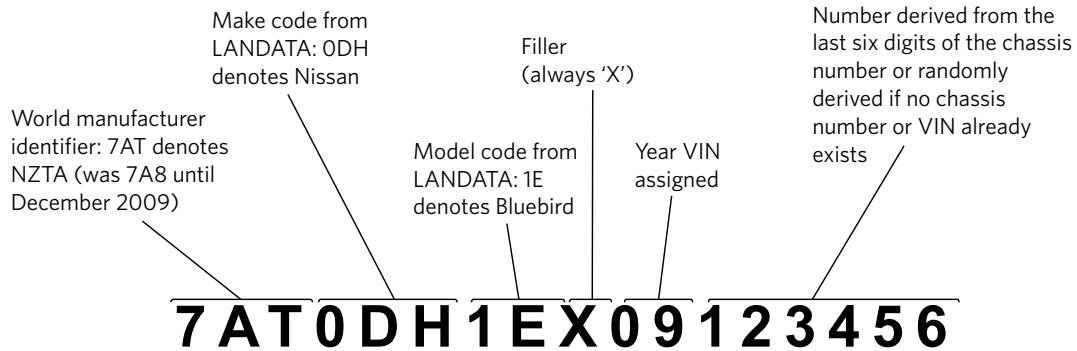


Figure 1-1-1. Structure of a VIN issued by the NZ Transport Agency

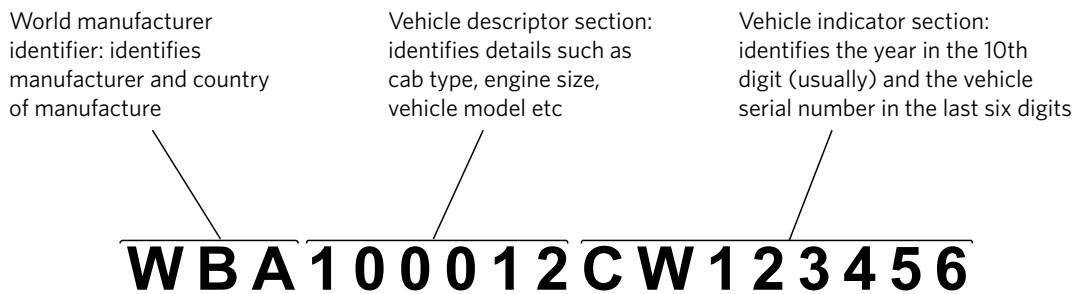


Figure 1-1-2. Structure of a VIN issued by the vehicle manufacturer

Table 1-1-1. Location of New Zealand VIN numbers

Vehicle	Permitted VIN locations
Vehicles that are not forward controlled (passenger cars and off-road passenger vehicles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the engine compartment on the right-hand side of the firewall</li> <li>In the engine compartment on the right-hand side adjacent to the front suspension mounting point</li> <li>In a location inside the engine compartment approved by the NZTA for a specified vehicle or vehicle model</li> <li>On the firewall or inner guards so it is visible from the front of the vehicle.</li> </ul>
Forward-controlled vehicles (passenger vans and off-road vehicles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the passenger compartment, on the top of the right-hand side wheel arch adjacent to the seat cushion</li> <li>In the passenger compartment, on the inner panel of the right-hand A-pillar, adjacent to where the floor meets the A-pillar</li> <li>In the passenger compartment on the B-pillar.</li> </ul>
Goods vehicles and light omnibuses	Vehicle with a separate chassis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the outside of the chassis adjacent to the right front wheel arch,</li> </ul> Vehicle without a separate chassis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As specified for forward-controlled vehicles.</li> </ul>

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.