

# Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment Co.

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ATLANTA, GA. 30316  
627-4650

August 22, 1984

Administor  
N.H.T.S.A.  
400 Seventh Street  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Attention: V.I.N. Coordinator

Subject: Submittal, Decipher Characters  
Atlanta Fabricating & Equipment V.I.N.

Reference: a) FMVSS-115 para. 56.3  
b) FMVSS-115 para. 56.4  
c) FMVSS-155 para. 56.1  
d) Attachment "A"

Gentlemen;

In accordance with references "a" and "b" above, Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment Corp. submits the following contents of the correspondence.

Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment Corp. is an original equipment manufacturer of Class 8 heavy duty diesel trucks, with an annual production of less than 500 vehicles.

Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment Corp. does not manufacture gasoline powered vehicles.

Powerplant offerings are limited to diesel types, as manufactured by:

Cummins Engine Company  
Detroit-Diesel Allison  
Caterpillar Tractor Company

Model year is October 1st through September 30th.

In accordance with reference "c" above, Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment Corp. requested and received from the Society of Automotive Engineers a unique identifier designation of 1A9, with the third, fourth, and fifth characters of section IV being 097.

Decipher for the VIN information will be as follows:

#### Section I - Maker Identifier Section

First Character: 1 per SAE  
Second Character: A per SAE  
Third Character: 9 per SAE

#### Section II - Vehicle Attributes Section

First Character: T for Transmit Mixer  
K for Glider Kit

498

01-22-N11B-1695

B  
8/28/84 EW

4 pgs

ORIGINAL

84 NOV 29 411:43

RECEIVED  
NHISA DOCKET

Second Character: W for one-man cab  
Third Character: see Attachment "A"  
Fourth Character: 1 for Air Brake System  
Fifth Character: 8 for Class 8 Vehicle

Section III - Check Digit

Section IV - Vehicle Identifier Section

First Character: Will be in accordance with FMVSS-115, Table II  
Second Character: 1 for Atlanta, GA. Plant (only plant)  
Third Character: 0 (zero) per SAE  
Fourth Character: 9 per SAE  
Fifth Character: 7 per SAE  
Sixth Character: Will be sequenced numerically from zero (0)  
Seventh Character: Will be sequenced numerically from zero (0)  
Eighth Character: Will be sequenced numerically from one (1)

With the foregoing information, Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment Corp. requests approval of the decipher characters cited herein.

Sincerely,  
ATLANTA FABRICATING AND EQUIPMENT



Daniel M. Stoddard  
Manager of Manufacturing

DMS:km

ATTACHMENT "A"

VIN - Section II - Vehicle Attributes Section  
 Third Character - "Engine Type"

ENGINE TYPE CODE

MAKE	8V	6V	In-Line 6	Code
Cummins	X		X	A B
Detroit Diesel	X	X	X	C D E
Caterpillar	X		X	F G
No Engine (Glider Kit)				O

It should be noted that the Cipher system to be used for engine type denotes make and type (8V, 6V, In-Line 6) only.

Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment has not included horsepower as a part of the cipher code. The highly variable aspects of "horsepower" among engine manufacturers and vehicle manufacturers results in an impractical number of potential combinations that do not lend themselves to a consistent code or cipher system.

Rated horsepower and net brake horsepower are relatively meaningless expressions in this case in that rated horsepower is only a value recognized in the market place as a guaranteed available horsepower, inclusive or exclusive of certain accessories and other highly variable parasitic componentry among the various manufacturers.

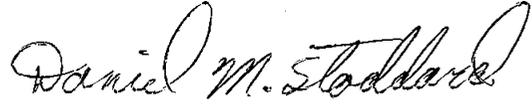
Reference to horsepower is avoided in the A.F.E. cipher since most diesel engines available to the heavy duty truck industry possess the feature for easily being upgraded in horsepower after factory delivery in the life of the vehicle. Such upgradings are manufacturer approved. Indeed, in some instances, certain components, such as radiators, are installed on the vehicle for the potentially higher horsepower, even though the lower horsepower is originally furnished. Such horsepower upgrading compromises the original VIN for "Engine Type" if it were keyed to horsepower.

Additionally, the subject third position of Section II has the potential for only 32 individual characters (23 alpha and 9 numeric). Any elaborate coding for "Engine Type" will easily exceed the limits of available characters, even for Atlanta Fabricating and Equipment Corporation.

It is also noted that engine manufacturers continuously introduce design changes that effect rated horsepower and RPM so that decipher codes submitted at this point in time would not apply for future engine types or configurations.

It appears that any code system more elaborate than for make and type would be compromised within the immediate future so as to result in a confusing amended system occurring every year or so, if not more often, and not necessarily coincidental with vehicle model years effectivities.

Sincerely,  
ATLANTA FABRICATING AND EQUIPMENT



Daniel M. Stoddard  
Manager of Manufacturing

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