Manufacturers Advisory Correspondence # 77-8

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

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TO ALL MOTORCYCLE MANUFACTURERS

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has received an inquiry from a motorcycle manufacturer concerning the definition of motorcycle "model", as used in Executive Order G-70-4. This Executive Order establishes a schedule for compliance with CARB's "Specifications for Fill Pipes and Openings of Motor Vehicle Fuel Tanks" (Title 13, California Administrative Code, Section 2290). For the purposes of meeting the requirements of this Order, the definition of motorcycle model shall be as found in SAE Recommended Practice J218, with the following qualifications:

1. Make and body type will not be used if they are inapplicable to motorcycles of a given manufacturer.

2. Motorcycle line will be used in place of car line.

3. Differences in major engine parameters (number of cylinders, combustion cycle, displacement, carburetion, etc.) will be used as major determinants of motorcycle line designations.

The implications of SAE J218 were altered as above in order to reflect trends we see within the motorcycle industry at present, and to restrict as little as possible the manufacturer's freedom to designate models. Should any questions arise concerning our definitions, or if any problems should occur in applications, please feel free to contact Alex Hall of our Special Projects Section at (213) 575-6792.

G. C. Hass

G. C. Hass, Chief
Vehicle Emissions Control Division

Over

PASSENGER CAR IDENTIFICATION TERMINOLOGY—SAE J218

SAE Recommended Practice

Report of Vehicle Identification Numbers Committee aproved January 1971.

Scope—This SAE Recommended Practice is intended to provide uniform nomenclature and definitions for the primary levels of vehicle identification, with particular application to passenger cars.

While this initial terminology applies only to passenger cars, work is in progress to develop supplementary nomenclature and definitions pertaining to truck and/or commercial vehicle terms and terms presently used interchangeably in passenger cars, trucks, or commercial vehicle applications. These supplementary terms will be covered in subsequent revisions to this recommended practice.

Definitions

1. **Passenger Car**—A four-wheeled motor vehicle manufactured primarily for use on the public streets, roads, and highways and designed for carrying 10 passengers or less.

2. **Manufacturer**—Any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the production or assembly of passenger cars.

3. **Make**—A distinctive name, applied to a group of vehicles from one manufacturer, which may be further subdivided, such as: car line, body type, etc. Examples (see Fig. 1 and 2):

MANUFACTURER: Alpha	MANUFACTURER: Alpha
MAKE: Able	MAKE: Charlie

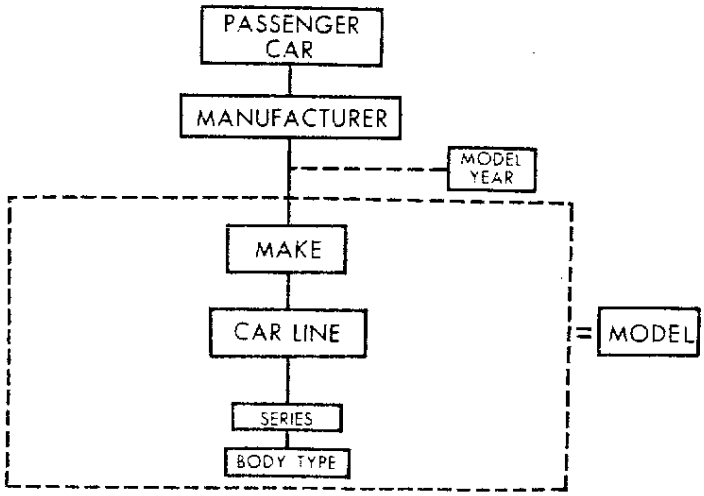

FIG. 1—SCHEMATIC RELATIONSHIP OF AUTOMOTIVE TERMS

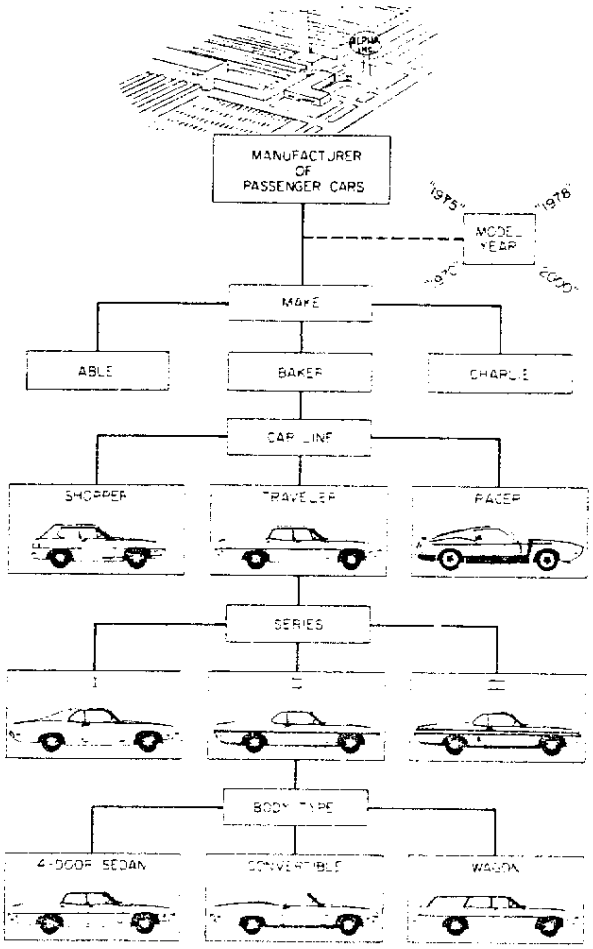

FIG. 2—"HYPOTHETICAL MANUFACTURE" AND APPLICATION OF UNIFORM AUTOMOTIVE TERMINOLOGY

4. **Car Line**—A name denoting a family of vehicles within a make which has a degree of commonality in construction, such as body, chassis, etc. Examples (see Figs. 1 and 2):

MANUFACTURER: Alpha	MANUFACTURER: Alpha
MAKE: Able	MAKE: Baker
CAR LINE: Shopper	CAR LINE: Racer

5. **Series**—A specific level of decor or opulence within a car line, usually distinguished by some marketing term, and denoting a price class. Examples (see Figs. 1 and 2):

MAKE: Able	MAKE: Baker
CAR LINE: Shopper	CAR LINE: Racer
SERIES: I	SERIES: III

6. **Body Type**—The general configuration or shape of a vehicle, distinguished by characteristics such as number of doors, seats, or windows, roofline, hardtop, convertible, etc. (BODY STYLE AND BODY TYPE ARE SYNONOMOUS.) Examples (see Figs. 1 and 2):

MAKE: Able	MAKE: Baker
CAR LINE: Shopper	CAR LINE: Racer
SERIES: I	SERIES: III
BODY TYPE: 4-door Sedan	BODY TYPE: Convertible

7. **Model Year**—A year designation used by the manufacturer for marketing vehicles (not necessarily the year of manufacture). Examples:

MODEL YEAR: 1970 Able Shopper, 1970 Baker Racer

8. **Model**—The term applied to a vehicle which includes the make, car line, series, body type and model year. Examples:

1971—Able shopper (Series I), 4-door Sedan
1980—etc.

9. **Year of Manufacture**—The calendar year in which a vehicle is manufactured.

10. **Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)**—"The number assigned to a vehicle by the manufacturer primarily for registration and identification purposes." (For supplementary information, see SAE J853.) Examples:

AB23LOD123456 BA43TOC654321

11. **Vehicle Identification Number Derivative (VIN Derivative)**—A number which is adapted from a given VIN, and contains fewer digits and characters. It is unique for each vehicle and relates to the VIN in a uniform manner. It may be affixed to vehicle components to associate the component with the vehicle bearing the original VIN. Examples:

OD123456 OC654321