

Submitted for recognition as an American National Standard

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES

Foreword—This Document has not changed other than to put it into the new SAE Technical Standards Board Format.

1. **Scope**—This SAE Standard establishes basic dimensions for motor vehicle license plates. It is based on data supplied by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Motor Vehicle manufacturers Association, and Motorcycle, Scooter and Allied Trades Association. The dimensions established in this standard have considered legibility and identification of the license plate.
- 1.1 **Purpose**—This standard is intended to facilitate attachment of license plates to motor vehicles by providing uniform overall dimensions, bolt hole sizes and spacing, and recommended beading practice.
2. **References**—There are no referenced publications specified herein.
3. **Overall Size of Plate**—Standard sizes for license plate shall be:
 - a. For motor vehicles other than motorcycles and motor driven cycles—6.00 in (152.4 mm) height by 12.00 in (304.8 mm) length. See Figure 1.
 - b. For motorcycles and motor driven cycles—4.00 in (101.6 mm) height by 7.00 in (177.9 mm) length. See Figure 2.
4. **Bolt Holes**—Bolt holes shall be 0.28 in (7.1 mm) diameter and spaced as indicated in Figures 1 and 2.

SAE Technical Standards Board Rules provide that: "This report is published by SAE to advance the state of technical and engineering sciences. The use of this report is entirely voluntary, and its applicability and suitability for any particular use, including any patent infringement arising therefrom, is the sole responsibility of the user."

SAE reviews each technical report at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or cancelled. SAE invites your written comments and suggestions.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DOCUMENT: (724) 772-8512 FAX: (724) 776-0243
TO PLACE A DOCUMENT ORDER; (724) 776-4970 FAX: (724) 776-0790
SAE WEB ADDRESS <http://www.sae.org>

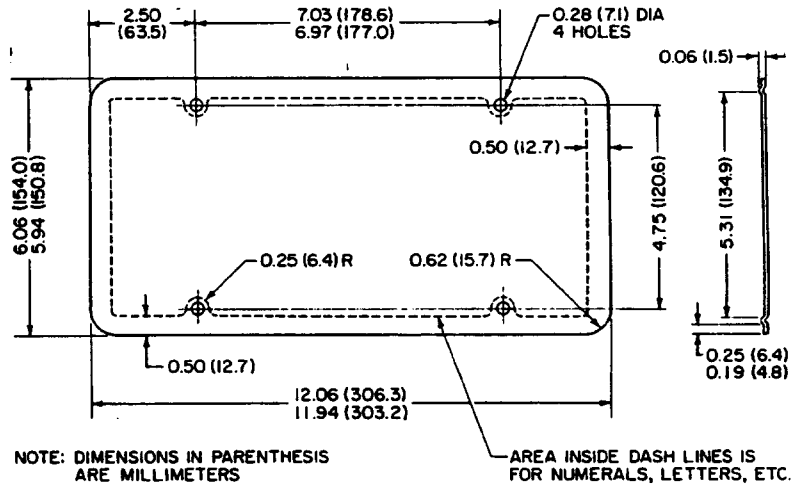


FIGURE 1—DIMENSIONS FOR PASSENGER CAR AND TRUCK LICENSE PLATES

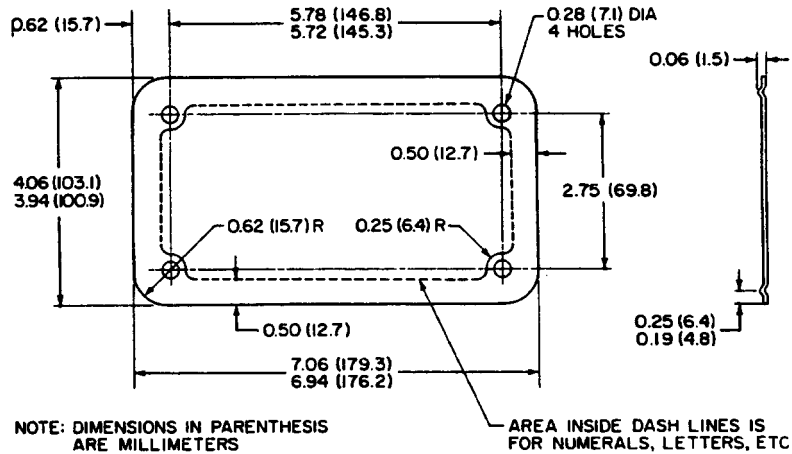


FIGURE 2—DIMENSIONS FOR MOTORCYCLE AND MOTOR DRIVEN CYCLE LICENSE PLATES

5. Notes

5.1 **Marginal Indicia**—The change bar (I) located in the left margin is for the convenience of the user in locating areas where technical revisions have been made to the previous issue of the report. An (R) symbol to the left of the document title indicates a complete revision of the report.

PREPARED BY THE SAE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS COMMITTEE

SAE J686 Revised JUL81

Rationale—Not applicable.

Relationship of SAE Standard to ISO Standard—Not applicable.

Application—This SAE Standard establishes basic dimensions for motor vehicle license plates. It is based on data supplied by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Motor Vehicle manufacturers Association, and Motorcycle, Scooter and Allied Trades Association. The dimensions established in this standard have considered legibility and identification of the license plate.

Reference Section—There are no referenced publications specified herein.

Developed by the SAE Vehicle Identification Numbers Committee