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**Road vehicles — Communication  
between vehicle and external equipment  
for emissions-related diagnostics —**

**Part 6:  
Diagnostic trouble code definitions**

*Véhicules routiers — Communications entre un véhicule et un  
équipement externe concernant le diagnostic relatif aux émissions —*

*Partie 6: Définition des codes d'anomalie de diagnostic*

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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 15031-6 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Electrical and electronic equipment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15031-6:2005), which has been been technically revised.

ISO 15031 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Road vehicles — Communication between vehicle and external equipment for emissions-related diagnostics*:

- *Part 1: General information and use case definition*
- *Part 2: Guidance on terms, definitions, abbreviations and acronyms*
- *Part 3: Diagnostic connector and related electrical circuits, specification and use*
- *Part 4: External test equipment*
- *Part 5: Emissions-related diagnostic services*
- *Part 6: Diagnostic trouble code definitions*
- *Part 7: Data link security*

## Introduction

### 0.1 Overview

ISO 15031 consists of a number of parts which, taken together, provide a coherent self-consistent set of specifications to facilitate emissions-related diagnostics. Parts 2 through 7 are based on SAE recommended practices. This part of ISO 15031 is based on SAE J2012.

ISO 15031-1 provides an introduction to the series of International Standards.

This document set includes the communication between the vehicle's On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) systems and test equipment implemented across vehicles within the scope of the legislated emissions-related OBD.

To achieve this, it is based on the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Basic Reference Model in accordance with ISO/IEC 7498-1 and ISO/IEC 10731, which structures communication systems into seven layers. When mapped on this model, the services specified by ISO 15031 are broken into the following layers in accordance with Table 1:

- diagnostic services (layer 7), specified in
  - ISO 15031-5 (emissions-related OBD);
  - ISO 27145-3 (WWH-OBD);
- presentation layer (layer 6), specified in
  - ISO 15031-2, SAE J1930-DA;
  - ISO 15031-5, SAE J1979-DA;
  - this part of ISO 15031, SAE J2012-DA (OBD);
  - ISO 27145-2, SAE J2012-DA (WWH-OBD);
- session layer services (layer 5), specified in
  - ISO 14229-2 support ISO 15765-4 DoCAN and ISO 14230-4 DoK-Line protocols;
  - ISO 14229-2 are not applicable to the SAE J1850 and ISO 9141-2 protocols;
- transport layer services (layer 4), specified in
  - ISO 15765-2;
  - SAE J1850 defined in ISO 15031-5;
  - ISO 9141-2 defined in ISO 15031-5;
  - ISO 14230-4 defined in ISO 15031-5;

- network layer services (layer 3), specified in
  - ISO 15765-2;
  - SAE J1850 defined in ISO 15031-5;
  - ISO 9141-2 defined in ISO 15031-5;
  - ISO 14230-4 defined in ISO 15031-5;
- data link layer (layer 2), specified in
  - ISO 15765-4, ISO 11898-1 and ISO 11898-2;
  - SAE J1850;
  - ISO 9141-2;
  - ISO 14230-2;
- physical layer (layer 1), specified in
  - ISO 15765-4, ISO 11898-1 and ISO 11898-2;
  - SAE J1850;
  - ISO 9141-2;
  - ISO 14230-1.

**Table 1 — Legislated emissions-related OBD/WWH<sup>1)</sup>-OBD diagnostic specifications applicable to the OSI layers**

Applicability	OSI 7 layers	Emissions-related OBD communication requirements			Emissions-related WWH-OBD communication requirements		
Seven layer according to ISO/IEC 7498-1 and ISO/IEC 10731	Application (layer 7)	ISO 15031-5			ISO 27145-3		
	Presentation (layer 6)	ISO 15031-2, ISO 15031-5, ISO 15031-6			ISO 27145-2		
		SAE J1930-DA/SAE J1979-DA/ SAE J2012-DA (OBD)			SAE J2012-DA (WWH-OBD)		
	Session (layer 5)	ISO 14229-2		Not Applicable		ISO 14229-2	
	Transport (layer 4)	ISO 15765-2	ISO 15765-4	ISO 15031-5		ISO 14230-4	
	Network (layer 3)						
	Data link (layer 2)	ISO 11898-1 ISO 11898-2		SAE J1850	ISO 9141-2	ISO 14230-2	
	Physical (layer 1)					ISO 14230-1	

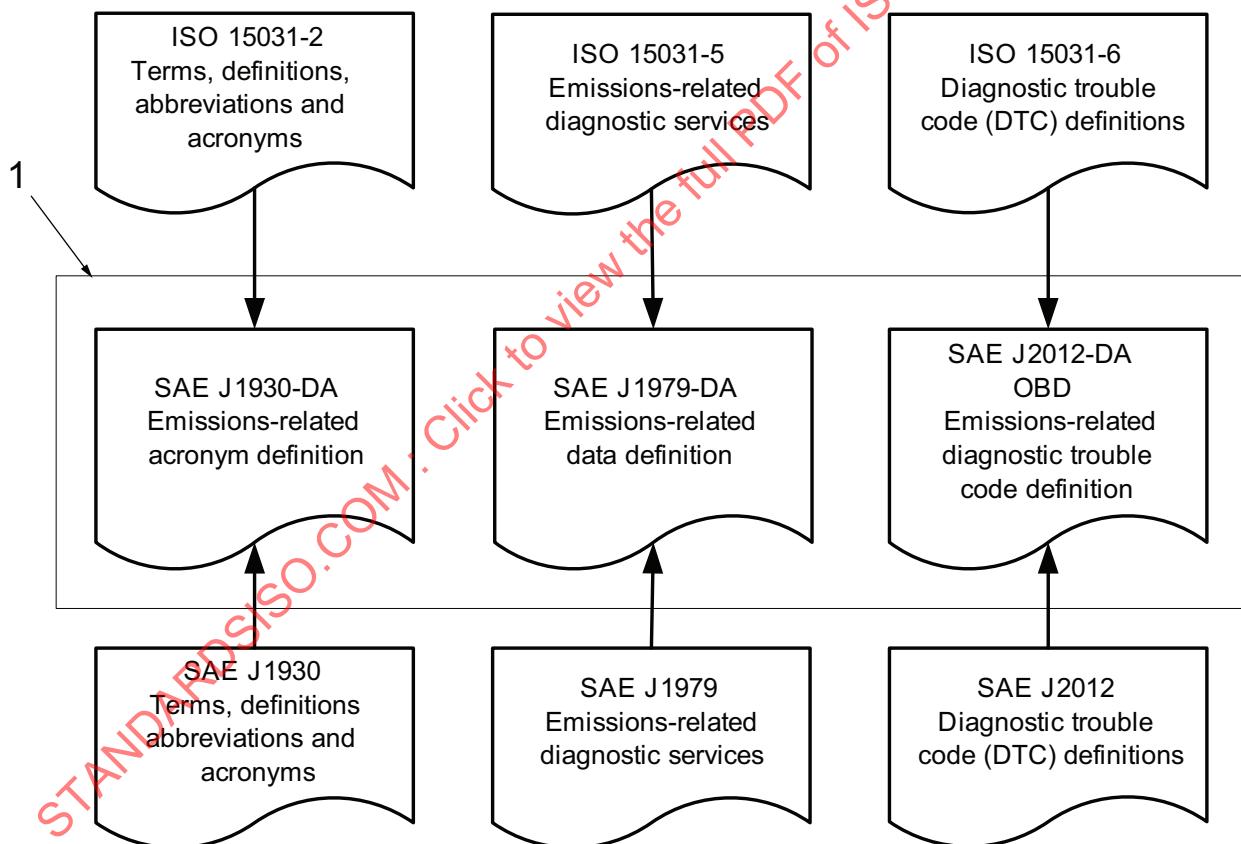
1) World-Wide Harmonized

## 0.2 SAE document reference concept

ISO 15031 references several SAE documents which contain all terms, data and DTC (diagnostic trouble code) definitions.

This is illustrated in Figure 1 Additional information on the content of the referenced documents is given below:

- SAE J1930: the document is concerned with a procedure for naming objects and systems and with the set of words from which names are built. It references SAE J1930-DA which contains all standardized naming objects, terms and abbreviations.
- SAE J1979: the document is concerned with the definition of emissions-related diagnostic services (diagnostic test modes). It references SAE J1979-DA which contains all standardized data items like PIDs, Test Ids, Monitor Ids and InfoType Ids.
- SAE J2012: the document is concerned with the procedure for defining emissions-related DTCs. It references SAE J2012-DA which contains all standardized data items like DTCs and FTBs (failure type bytes).



### Key

1 SAE Digital Annexes

**Figure 1 — SAE Digital Annex document reference**

On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) regulations require passenger cars, and light, medium and heavy duty trucks, to support a minimum set of diagnostic information to external (off-board) "generic" test equipment.

### 0.3 SAE J2012-DA (OBD) Digital Annex

This part of ISO 15031 references SAE J2012-DA. SAE J2012-DA is concerned with the definition of DTCs and FTB information.

SAE J2012-DA (OBD) includes several appendices for:

- DTC naming guidelines;
- powertrain system DTCs;
- network communication system, body systems, and chassis systems;
- DTC failure category and subtype definition.

### 0.4 SAE Digital Annex revision procedure

New emissions-related regulatory requirements drive new in-vehicle technology to lower emissions. New technology-related OBD monitor data and DTCs need to be standardized to support the external (off-board) "generic" test equipment. All relevant information is proposed by the automotive industry represented by members of the appropriate SAE task force.

Revision request forms and instructions for updating the registers to this part of ISO 15031 can be obtained on the Registration Authority's website at:

<http://www.sae.org/servlets/works/committeeHome.do?comtID=TEVDS9>

The column titled "Resources" shows a document with the title: J2012-DA\_Revision\_Request\_Form.doc. Double click on the name and you will be asked to download the document with the filename:

SAE J2012-DA\_Revision\_Request\_Form.doc

Fill out the revision request form with your request.

Please send an e-mail with the completed revision request form as an attachment to:

SAE Headquarters  
755 West Big Beaver Road  
Suite 1600  
Troy, MI 48084-4093, USA  
Fax: +1 (248) 273-2494  
mailto: [saej2012@sae.org](mailto:saej2012@sae.org)

# Road vehicles — Communication between vehicle and external equipment for emissions-related diagnostics —

## Part 6: Diagnostic trouble code definitions

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 15031 provides uniformity for standardized Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTC) that electrical/electronic On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) systems of motor vehicles are required to report when malfunctions are detected. It also provides guidance for uniform messages (text descriptor) associated with these codes.

This part of ISO 15031 specifies the rules and guidelines for the definition of:

- a) the DTC format, which consists of:
  - 1) addressing format;
  - 2) structure;
  - 3) messages;
- b) a standardized set of DTC and descriptions;
- c) a standardized set of DTC subtypes known as failure types.

This part of ISO 15031 specifies all general rules and guidelines to define new DTCs. This part of ISO 15031 references the SAE J2012-DA (Digital Annex), which includes all standardized DTCs (number and text descriptor) as well as all DTC subtypes known as failure types.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15031-2, *Road vehicles — Communication between vehicle and external equipment for emissions-related diagnostics — Part 2: Guidance on terms, definitions, abbreviations and acronyms*

ISO 15031-5, *Road vehicles — Communication between vehicle and external equipment for emissions-related diagnostics — Part 5: Emissions-related diagnostic services*

### 3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 15031-2 apply.

#### 3.2 Abbreviated terms

B1S1	bank 1 sensor 1
B1S2	bank 1 sensor 2
B1S3	bank 1 sensor 3
B2S1	bank 2 sensor 1
B2S2	bank 2 sensor 2
B2S3	bank 2 sensor 3
BARO	barometric atmospheric pressure
CVN	calibration verification number
DTC	diagnostic trouble code
ECM	engine control module
ISR	interrupt service routine
LSB	least significant bit
MAF	mass air flow
MAP	manifold absolute pressure
MIL	malfunction indicator light
MSB	most significant bit
OBD	on-board diagnostics
OSI	open systems interconnection
PCM	powertrain control module
SI	international system of units
TCM	transmission control module

### 4 Conventions

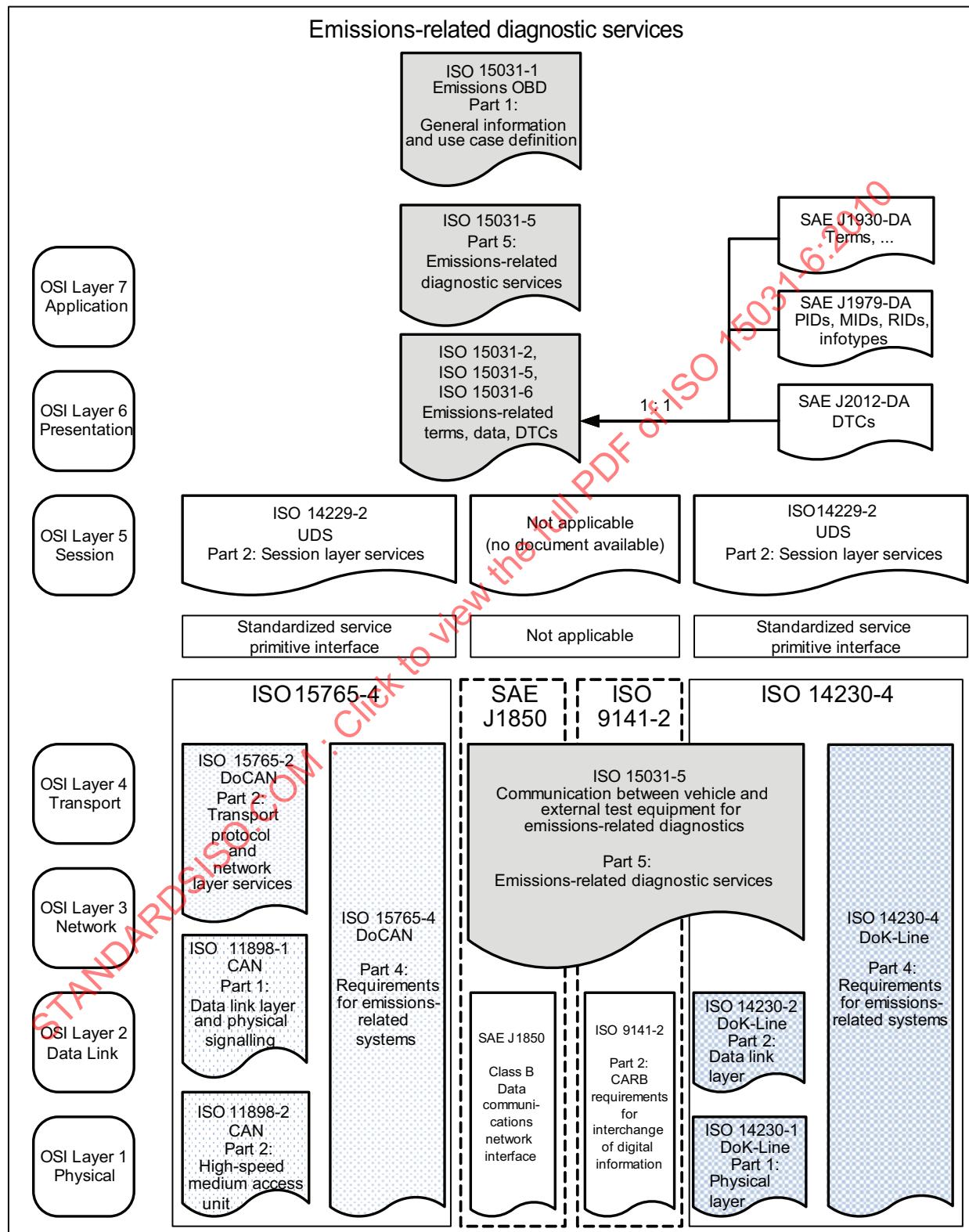
ISO 15031 is based on the conventions discussed in the OSI Service Conventions (ISO/IEC 10731:1994) as they apply for diagnostic services.

The protocol initialization identifies whether ISO 15765-4 DoCAN, SAE J1850, ISO 14230-4 DoK-Line or ISO 9141-2 is the data link layer supported by the vehicle. ISO 15031 references the standards as an applicable data link for emissions-related OBD.

ISO 15031-5 specifies the applicable emissions-related diagnostic services. This part of ISO 15031 specifies the data record structures and references SAE J1930-DA, SAE J1979-DA and SAE J2012-DA which include all emissions-related OBD data definitions.

## 5 Document overview

Figure 2 illustrates the document references.



**Figure 2 — Emissions-related OBD on ISO 15765-4, SAE J1850, ISO 9141-2, ISO 14230-4 document reference according to OSI model**

## 6 General specification

### 6.1 General code information

Table 2 specifies systems, code categories, hexadecimal values and particular sections of electrical/electronic systems diagnostic.

**Table 2 — General code specifications**

System	Code categories	Hex value	Appendix
Body	B0xxx – B3xxx	8xxx - Bxxx	B
Chassis	C0xxx – C3xxx	4xxx - 7xxx	C
Powertrain	P0xxx – P3xxx	0xxx - 3xxx	P
Generic/network	U0xxx – U3xxx	Cxxx - Fxxx	U

The recommended DTCs consist of a three digit numeric code preceded by an alphanumeric designator. The alphanumeric designators are “B0”, “B1”, “B2”, “B3”, “C0”, “C1”, “C2”, “C3”, “P0”, “P1”, “P2”, “P3”, “U0”, “U1”, “U2”, “U3”, corresponding to four sets of body, four sets of chassis, four sets of powertrain and four sets of network trouble codes. The code structure itself is partially open-ended. A portion of the available numeric sequences (portions of “B0”, “C0”, “P0”, “P2”, “P3”, “U0” and “U3”) is reserved for uniform codes assigned by this or future updates. Detailed specifications of the DTC format structure are specified in Clause 7. Most circuit, component, or system DTCs that do not support a subfault strategy are specified by four basic categories:

- circuit/open,
- range/performance,
- circuit low,
- circuit high.

“Circuit low” is measured with the external circuit, component, or system connected. The signal type (voltage, frequency, etc.) shall be included in the message after “circuit low” or “circuit high”.

“Circuit high” is measured with the external circuit, component, or system connected. The signal type (voltage, frequency, etc.) may be included in the message after “circuit low” or “circuit high”.

### 6.2 Sensor location definition

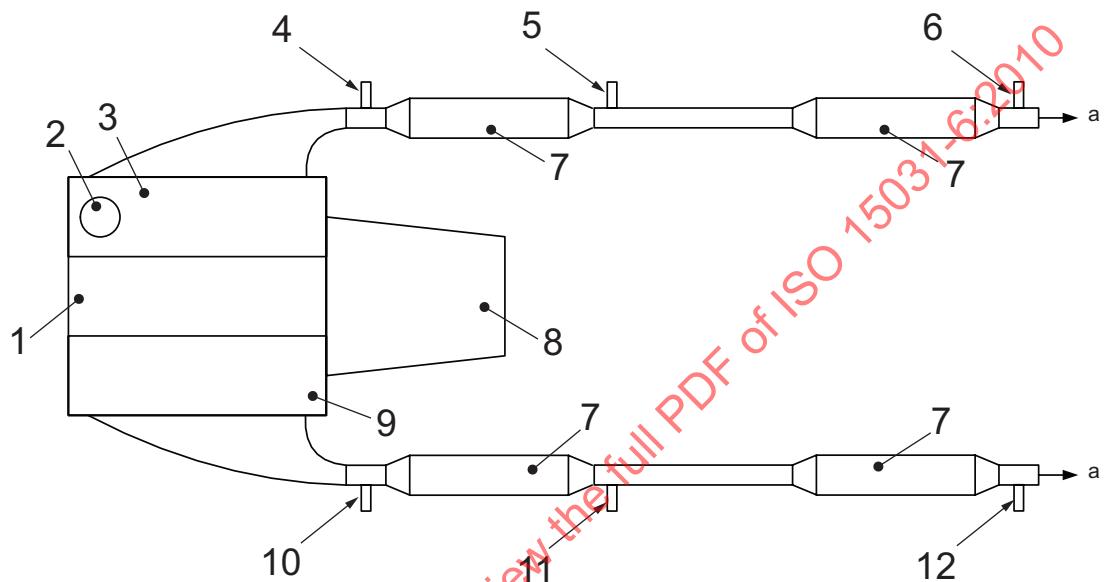
#### 6.2.1 General

This subclause defines the location of sensor(s) in relation to the engine airflow, starting from the fresh air intake through to the vehicle tail pipe or fuel flow from the fuel tank to the engine, numbered 1, 2, 3, etc.

If there is only one bank, use bank #1 DTCs and the word “bank” may be omitted. With a single “bank” system using multiple sensors, use bank #1.

NOTE See Figure 3 through Figure 7.

### 6.2.2 Definition of V6/V8/V12 cylinder engine with two exhaust banks and four catalysts

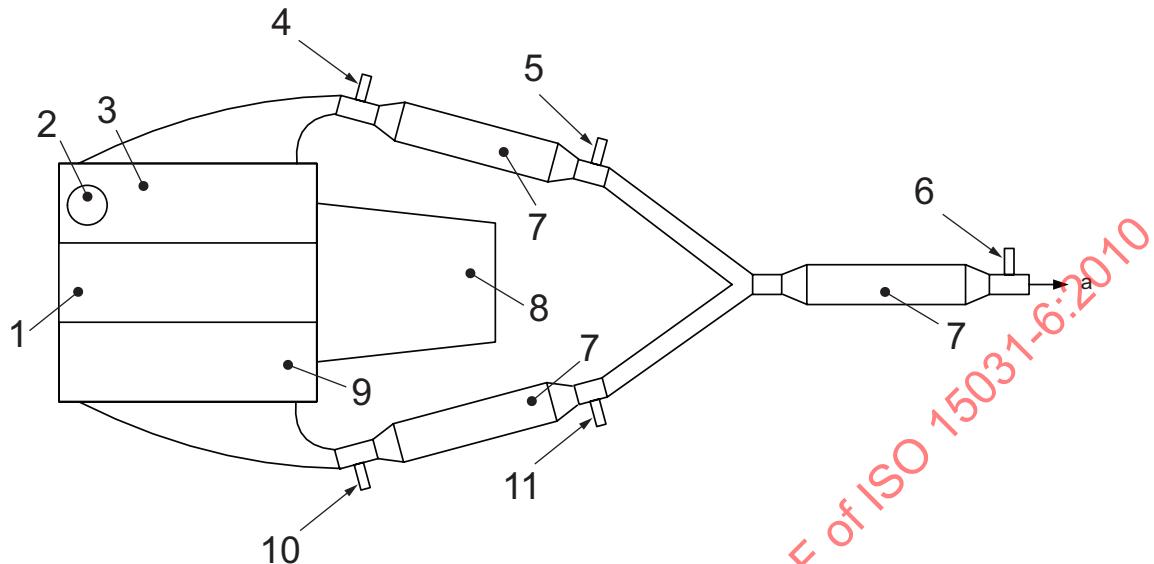


#### Key

1	V6/V8/V12 cylinder engine	7	catalyst
2	cylinder 1	8	transmission
3	cylinder bank 1 exhaust bank 1	9	cylinder bank 2 exhaust bank 2
4	B1S1 – Bank 1 Sensor 1 wide range	10	B2S1 – Bank 2 Sensor 1 wide range
5	B1S2 – Bank 1 Sensor 2 heated	11	B2S2 – Bank 2 Sensor 2 heated
6	B1S3 – Bank 1 Sensor 3 heated	12	B2S3 – Bank 2 Sensor 3 heated
a	To tail pipe.		

Figure 3 — V6/V8/V12 cylinder engine with two exhaust banks and four catalysts

## 6.2.3 Definition of V6/V8/V12 cylinder engine with two exhaust banks and three catalysts

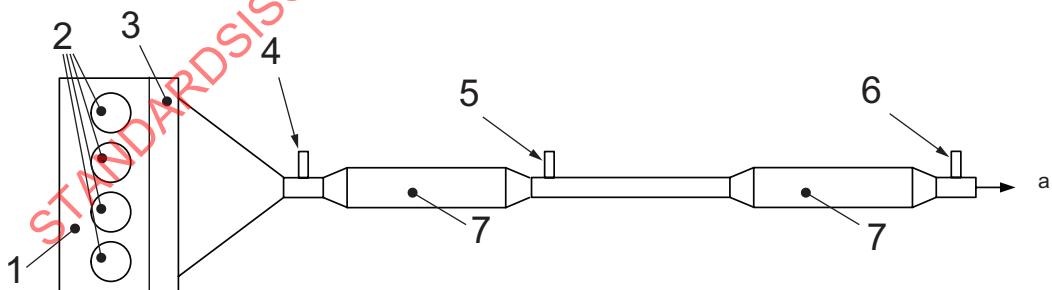


## Key

1	V6/V8/V12 cylinder engine	7	catalyst
2	cylinder 1	8	transmission
3	cylinder bank 1 exhaust bank 1	9	cylinder bank 2 exhaust bank 2
4	B1S1 – Bank 1 Sensor 1 wide range	10	B2S1 – Bank 2 Sensor 1 wide range
5	B1S2 – Bank 1 Sensor 2 heated	11	B2S2 – Bank 2 Sensor 2 heated
6	B1S3 – Bank 1 Sensor 3 heated		
a	To tail pipe.		

Figure 4 — V6/V8/V12 cylinder engine with two exhaust banks and three catalysts

## 6.2.4 Definition of L4/L5/L6 cylinder engine with one exhaust bank and two catalysts

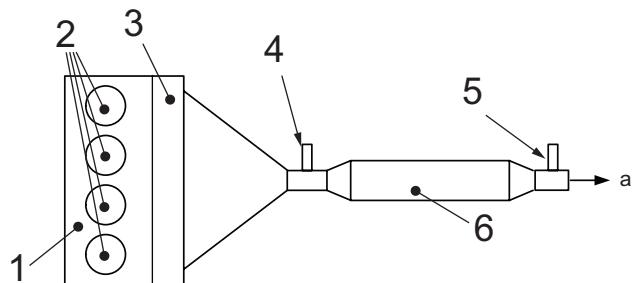


## Key

1	L4 cylinder engine	5	B1S2 – Bank 1 Sensor 2 heated
2	cylinders 1 to 4 (from top to bottom)	6	B1S3 – Bank 1 Sensor 3 heated
3	exhaust bank 1	7	catalyst
4	B1S1 – Bank 1 Sensor 1 wide range		
a	To tail pipe.		

Figure 5 — L4/L5/L6 cylinder engine with one exhaust bank and two catalysts

### 6.2.5 Definition of L4/L5/L6 cylinder engine with one exhaust bank and one catalyst



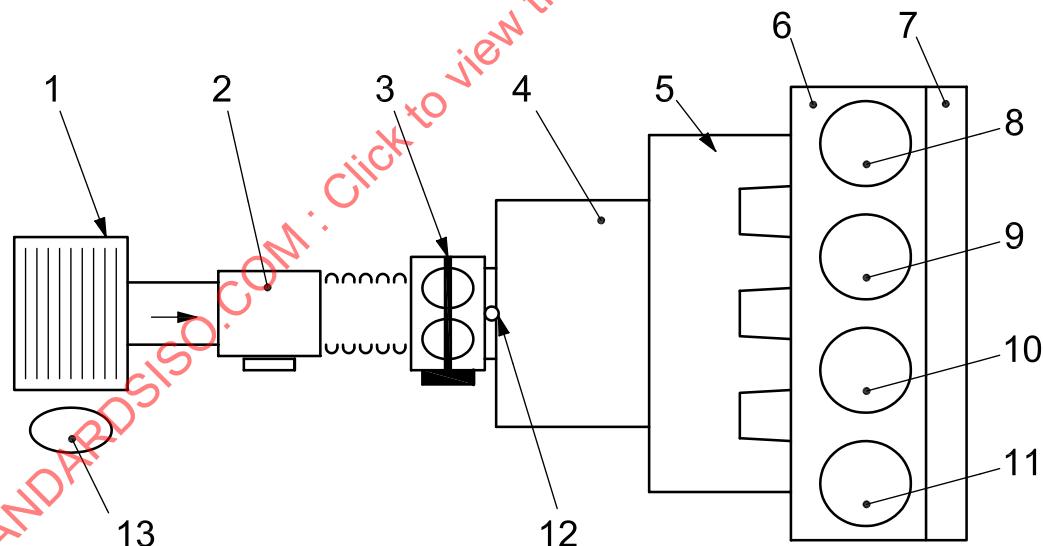
#### Key

1	L4 cylinder engine	4	B1S1 – Bank 1 Sensor 1 wide range
2	cylinders 1 to 4 (from top to bottom)	5	B1S2 – Bank 1 Sensor 2 heated
3	exhaust bank 1	6	catalyst
a	To tail pipe.		

Figure 6 — L4/L5/L6 cylinder engine with one exhaust bank and one catalyst

### 6.2.6 Definition of turbocharger/supercharger pressure sensor location draw-through system

The intake air system pressure sensor location for boosted applications in relation to the engine airflow includes the fresh air inlet, boost device and engine manifold.



#### Key

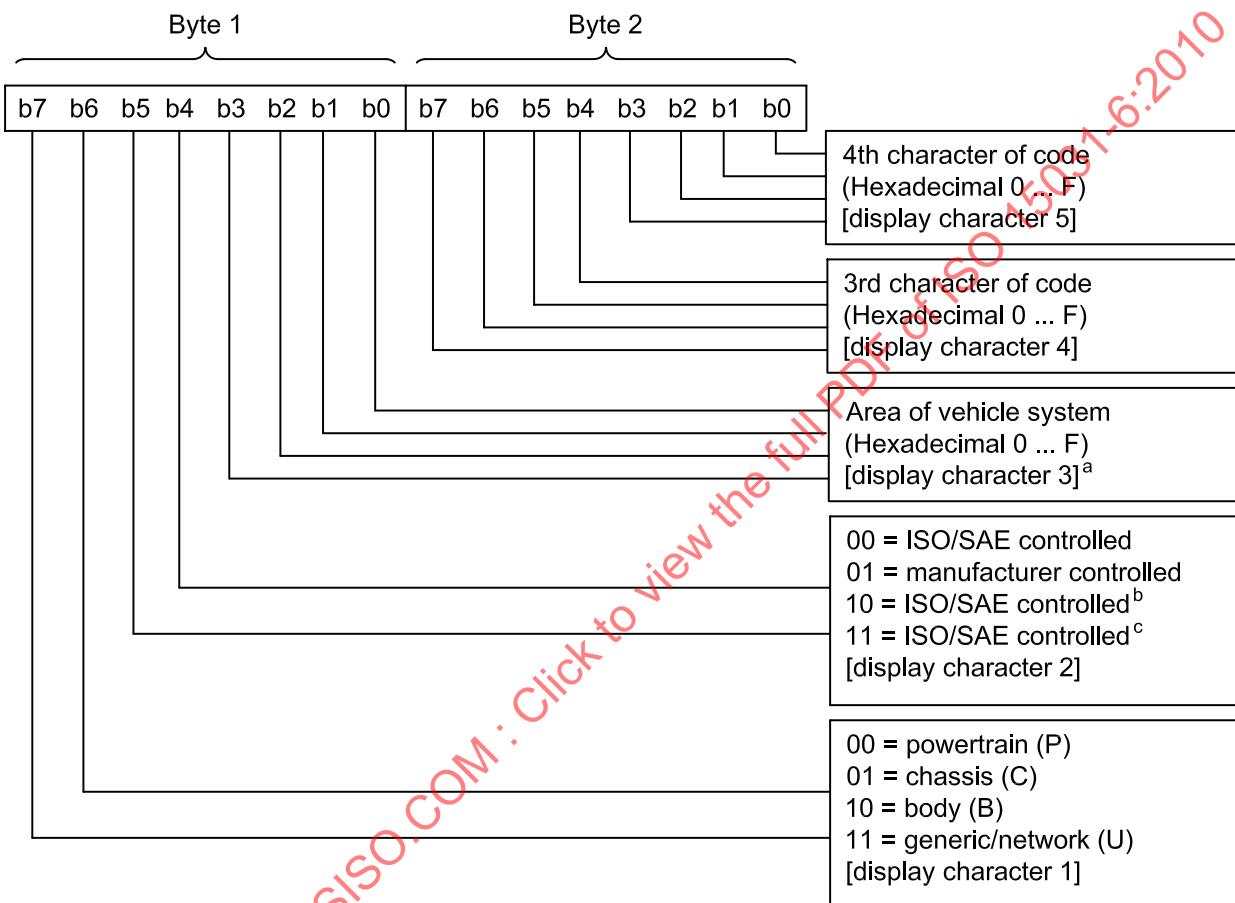
1	air cleaner	8	cylinder 1
2	MAF	9	cylinder 2
3	throttle body	10	cylinder 3
4	turbocharger/supercharger	11	cylinder 4
5	MAP (manifold pressure closest to the intake valves)	12	inlet (pressure after the throttle body, but before the pressurizing device)
6	L4 cylinder engine	13	BARO (atmospheric pressure)
7	exhaust bank 1		

Figure 7 — Turbocharger/supercharger pressure sensor location draw-through system

## 7 Format structure

### 7.1 Description

Figure 8 illustrates the diagnostic trouble code which consists of an alphanumeric designator, B0 – B3 for body, C0 – C3 for chassis, P0 – P3 for powertrain, and U0 – U3 for network communication, followed by three characters. The assignment of the proper alpha designator should be determined by the area most appropriate for that function. In most cases, the alpha designator will be implied, since diagnostic information will be requested from a particular controller. However, this does not imply that all codes supported by a particular controller shall have the same alphanumeric designator.



<sup>a</sup> “Display character 3” is used to identify a specific vehicle area. Within any area, display characters 4 and 5 allow up to 256 code definitions.

<sup>b</sup> For powertrain: these bits are ISO/SAE controlled, for all others they are manufacturer controlled.

<sup>c</sup> For powertrain: 11 = manufacturer controlled for P3000 to P33FF; 11 = ISO/SAE reserved for P3400 to P3FFF.

Figure 8 — Structure of DTCs

EXAMPLE 1 The 2-byte DTC as a data bus value 0x9234 would be displayed to technicians as the manufacturer controlled body code B1234; see Table 3.

Table 3 — Example of 2-byte diagnostic trouble code structure

DTC high byte					DTC low byte				
0x9		0x2			0x3		0x4		
1	0	0	1		0	0	1	0	
B		1			3		4		
2									

EXAMPLE 2 The 3-byte DTC as a data bus value 0x923400 would be displayed to technicians as the manufacturer controlled body code B1234-00; see Table 4 for DTC low byte (failure type byte) definitions. The low byte shall be displayed in hexadecimal format e.g. 0x1A shall be displayed as 1A.

**Table 4 — Example of 3-byte diagnostic trouble code structure**

DTC high byte								DTC middle byte								DTC low byte								
0x9				0x2				0x3				0x4				0x0				0x0				
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
B	1			2				3				4				0				0				

Codes have been specified to indicate a suspected trouble or problem area and are intended to be used as a directive to the proper service procedure. To minimize service confusion, fault codes should not be used to indicate the absence of problems or the status of parts of the system (e.g. powertrain system OK, or MIL activated), but should be confined to indicate areas in need of service attention.

Ranges have been expanded beyond 100 numbers by using the hexadecimal base 16 number system.

## 7.2 ISO/SAE controlled codes (core DTCs)

ISO/SAE controlled DTCs are those codes where industry uniformity has been achieved. These codes were felt to be common enough across most manufacturers' applications that a common number and fault message could be assigned. All unspecified numbers in each grouping are ISO/SAE reserved for future growth. Although service procedures may differ widely amongst manufacturers, the fault being indicated is common enough to be assigned a particular fault code. Codes in this area are not to be used by manufacturers until they have been approved by ISO/SAE.

## 7.3 Manufacturer controlled codes (non-uniform DTCs)

Areas within each alpha designator have been made available for manufacturer-controlled DTCs. These are fault codes that will not generally be used by a majority of the manufacturers due to basic system differences, implementation differences, or diagnostic strategy differences. Each vehicle manufacturer or supplier who designs and specifies diagnostic algorithms, software, and DTCs is strongly encouraged to remain consistent across their product line when assigning codes in the manufacturer controlled area. It is recommended that powertrain codes use the same groupings as in the ISO/SAE controlled area, i.e. 100 s and 200 s for fuel and air metering, 300 s for ignition system or misfire, etc.

While each manufacturer has the ability to define the controlled DTCs to meet their specific controller algorithms, all DTC words shall meet the requirements of ISO 15031-2 for information that should be made public.

## 7.4 Body system groupings — DTC numbers and descriptions are given in SAE J2012-DA

Table 5 defines the DTC range controlled by ISO/SAE and the manufacturer and the DTC range reserved by this part of ISO 15031.

**Table 5 — Body system groupings**

DTC range	Description
B0000 – B0FFF	ISO/SAE controlled
B1000 – B1FFF	Manufacturer controlled
B2000 – B2FFF	Manufacturer controlled
B3000 – B3FFF	Reserved by ISO 15031-6/SAE J2012