

Engine Codes Explained

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What are 'engine codes'?

Every engine in the GM range (i.e. includes Vauxhall, Opel etc.) has a engine code which represents the type of engine, its fueling type and its cubic capacity (cc in litres).



C20XE, a 2L 16v fuel injection engine.

So what is the code system?

Each engine code usually begins with a letter, followed by 2 numbers and then either 2 or 3 letters after that. Lets take the following example:-

C20XE

This is the engine code for the 2L 16v, DOHC, fuel injection engine as found in the Calibra, Astra and Cavalier cars. Lets split the engine code up. The letter 'C' is the type of exhaust or emission level standard. In this case C = EEC R 83.



E16SE, a 1.6L 8v fuel injection engine.

The next 2 numbers is the engine cc, which is 2000cc (i.e. 2L). The next letter (X) is the engine compression ratio, in this case X = 10.0 to 11.5. The letter E is the fueling system, which E = multi-point fuel injection (petrol).

Where do I find the engine code?

The engine code shall be stamped below the cylinder head (up to 1993), usually on a small flat surface. But after 1993 the location moved to the edge of the cylinder block, transmission side.

Engine Code System:



The engine code system takes the following standard (Petrol engines):-

ABBCDE

The engine code system takes the following standard (Diesel engines):-

BBDEE

ie **C20LET** is a 2L Turbo injection engine with a CAT and a compression ratio of 8.5 to 9.0.

ie **23DTR** is a 2.3L Turbo diesel engine with increased output.

Code A		Exhaust Emission Unit	Code B		Engine Size (cc)
	C	EC 91/441/EEC, US ' 83		Two digit number represents the litre of the engine size, i.e. 20 is 2.0L and 35 is 3.5L. So engine size in litres x 10.	
	X	EC 91/441/EEC, stage 2#			
	none	ECE R 83 A (as R 15.04)			
	*	ECE R 83 A (as R 15.04)			

Note: * = any character, # = Stricter limits for ca.1996

Code A		Compression Ratio	Code B		Mixture system
	G	<= 8.5		E	Multi-point Fuel Injection

	L	> 8.5 to 9.0		Z	Central Injection
	N	> 9.0 to 9.5		D	Diesel
Code C	S	> 9.5 to 10.0	Code D	V	Carburettor
	X	> 10.0 to 11.5			
	Y	> 11.5			

	Specific Version (if quoted)	Code X	Fuel system
	B IBC		
	C Corp. Ignition System		
	F Vehicles for Authorities		
	H High output/Supercharging		
	I Irmischer		
	J Throttled Output		
Code E	K Komplex		
	L Low output/supercharging		
	P Power adapted		
	R Increased Output		
	T Turbo		
	U Uruguay		
	V Volume model		
	W Venezuela		
	2 Family II engine		

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