

Cummins Engine Identification Quick Reference

ESN, CPL, engine model and equipment serial number - what each identifier means, where to find it and when to use it.

Use the ESN in QuickServe Online or Parts.cummins.com. Do not try to decode an ESN into displacement, year or parts compatibility. Cummins states that ESNs generally contain eight digits, but the data plate and official lookup result remain the authority.

Four identifiers that should not be confused

Identifier	What it identifies	Where to find it	Best use	Do not treat it as
ESN Engine Serial Number	One specific Cummins engine build.	Engine data plate; on many engines the number is also stamped on the block if the plate is unreadable.	Open engine-specific service and build information in QuickServe; identify the correct manufacturing build and service options in Parts.cummins.com.	A model code, equipment serial number or a code that can be decoded by eye.
CPL Critical Parts List	A Cummins parts and timing specification group used to support a given engine performance/configuration.	Commonly shown as CPL or CPL No. on the engine data plate; it can also be retrieved from the engine data-plate record for a known ESN.	A secondary cross-check for internal parts, timing or fuel-system configuration. Always cross-check against the original ESN build.	A unique engine identity. Different ESNs may share a CPL, and a CPL alone may not resolve every installed option.
Engine model Marketing or service model	The engine family, displacement and sometimes control-system/version information, such as B6.7 or B6.7 CM2350 B121B.	Engine data plate, Cummins literature and QuickServe service information.	Select the correct manual family and narrow the search before confirming by ESN.	A complete parts-compatibility answer. One marketing model can include multiple service-model and build variations.
Equipment serial number Machine, vehicle or generator-set serial	The OEM machine, vehicle or generator set that contains the engine.	OEM machine/vehicle/product data plate, chassis plate or generator-set nameplate.	OEM catalog, machine configuration, installation-specific components and product-level service information.	The Cummins engine ESN. A machine can have component serial numbers for the engine, alternator, controller and other assemblies.

Recommended matching order

1. Photograph the complete engine data plate. 2. Record the ESN exactly. 3. Open that ESN in QuickServe Online for service information and Parts.cummins.com for the manufacturing build/parts catalog. 4. Compare CPL, model, rating and physical configuration. 5. Use the equipment serial number only for OEM installation-specific components.

Verified ESN and data-plate locations

The positions below are taken from Cummins QuickServe guidance and an official Cummins R2.8 installation guide. Locations can vary by production plant, market and configuration; verify the Engine Identification section of the manual for the exact ESN whenever possible.

Engine family	Typical data-plate location stated by Cummins	If the plate is missing or unreadable
R2.8	Rocker/valve cover; the official guide notes that it may also be on the side of the gear housing.	ESN stamped on the intake side of the block near the water pump.
ISF	Top of the valve cover or gear housing.	Use the Engine Identification procedure for the exact engine; inspect the block stamping if the plate cannot be read.
ISB	Typically on the engine rocker cover; may be on the side of the gear housing.	Cummins guidance identifies a block ESN location on top of the lubricating-oil-cooler housing.
ISC and ISL	Top side of the gear housing.	Cummins guidance identifies a block ESN location on top of the lubricating-oil-cooler housing.
ISM	Fuel-pump side of the engine, on the rocker housing.	Refer to the engine's Engine Identification procedure and block stamping.
ISX	Top of the rocker-lever cover.	Refer to the engine's Engine Identification procedure and block stamping.
QSK45 and QSK60	Rear of the engine block, opposite the starter.	Refer to the applicable Operation and Maintenance Manual before relying on a location from another QSK platform.

What to request from the customer	Why it matters
One straight, readable photo of the complete engine data plate	Captures ESN, CPL, model, rating and other data in one source. Do not crop the edges of the plate.
One wider photo showing where the plate sits on the engine	Helps confirm that the plate belongs to the engine being quoted and shows installation context.
A close photo of the physical part being replaced and all numbers on it	ESN resolves the engine build, while installed components, supersessions and prior repairs may still require a physical comparison.
Equipment make, model and equipment serial number	Needed when the requested component is supplied or configured by the equipment OEM rather than by Cummins.

Source notes

- Cummins QuickServe Online, Finding the Engine Serial Number: [quickservice.cummins.com/calibration/finding_esn.html](https://www.cummins.com/calibration/finding_esn.html)
- Cummins QuickServe Online, How to Spec a ReCon Engine Using QSOL: [official PDF](#)
- Cummins, R2.8 Installation Guide, Section E - Engine and System Identification: [official PDF](#)
- Cummins QuickServe Online feature overview: [cummins.com QuickServe Online](#)
- Cummins notice on Parts.cummins.com manufacturing-build data: [QuickServe official notice](#)

Important: This independent quick reference is based on Cummins-published information and is not a substitute for the engine-specific manual, current QuickServe data or Parts.cummins.com. Data-plate wording and location can vary. Record the identifiers exactly as shown.