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SAE J645 MAY86

**Automotive
Transmission
Terminology**

**SAE Recommended Practice
Revised May 1986**

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RATIONALE:

Not applicable.

RELATIONSHIP OF SAE STANDARD TO ISO STANDARD:

Not applicable.

REFERENCE SECTION:

Not applicable.

APPLICATION:

This document is intended to establish terminology and criteria for describing the various kinds of automotive transmissions. A specific arrangement may be described by a combination of several of these definitions.

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AUTOMOTIVE TRANSMISSION TERMINOLOGY

1. **SCOPE:** The following listed definitions are intended to establish terminology and criteria for describing the various kinds of automotive transmissions. A specific arrangement may be described by a combination of several of these definitions.
 - 1.1 **Transmission:** A device for transmitting power at a multiplicity of speed and torque ratios. (In all definitions using the word "Transmission", the word "Transaxle" can also be substituted.)
 - 1.2 **Transaxle:** A transmission which provides differential output.
2. **TRANSMISSION TYPES:**
 - 2.1 **Automatic Transmission:** A transmission in which ratio changes are effected automatically without manual assist.
 - 2.2 **Friction Drive Transmission:** A transmission in which ratio change is effected through friction drive members.
 - 2.3 **Hydrodynamic Transmission:** A transmission using a fluid coupling or torque converter.
 - 2.4 **Hydrostatic Transmission:** A transmission using a positive displacement pump to drive a positive displacement motor.
 - 2.5 **Semiautomatic Transmission:** A transmission in which some of the functions of normal ratio changes are effected automatically.
 - 2.6 **Mechanical Transmission:** A transmission in which the speed and torque ratios are obtained by gears or other mechanical elements.

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