

# FACT SHEET

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## Locating A Serial Number on a HUD-Code Manufactured Home by Using the HUD Certification Label

When selling a HUD-code manufactured home many times the vehicle identification number (VIN), which is also referred to as serial number is needed by the lender, making sure there are no liens on the home prior to the lender closing the transaction.

Prior to a manufactured home leaving the factory the federal HUD-code, §3280.6, requires all homes be assigned a “serial number which is to identify the manufacturer and the state in which the manufactured home is manufactured. It is required to be stamped into the foremost cross member of the home.” It cannot be stamped on the hitch assembly or the draw bar as many times these are removed from the home. It even goes on to state that “letters and numbers must be 3/8 inch minimum in height.”

Additionally, the serial number is included on the Manufacturers Certificate of Origin (MCO) which is used as an ownership document when titling a home and the Data Plate which is found inside the home “affixed in a permanent manner near the main electrical panel or other readily accessible and visible location.”

Unfortunately, cross members of the home can be built over making it difficult to locate the serial number or due to weather they can no longer be identifiable. Additionally, titles are lost or never applied for, and data plates can be painted over or removed from homes; making it impossible to determine a serial number on a manufactured home.

There is one other option available and that is by using the HUD certification label which, (if it is still on the home) is found on the tail-light end of each transportable section of the home. The label is a red metal 2x4 inch plate. And though it is put on permanently like the data plate it can be removed by the homeowner when they are making repairs or upgrades to the home.



The HUD label maintains that the home is built to the federal HUD-code and the third-party agency responsible for making sure it does is identified on the label. The following is a list of third-party agencies that currently inspect HUD-code homes:

NTA, Inc. (NTA)  
305 North Oakland Avenue  
P.O. Box 490  
Nappanee, IN 46550-0490  
P: 574-773-7975  
[www.ntainc.com](http://www.ntainc.com)

PFS Corp. (PFS)  
1507 Matt Pass  
Cottage Grove, WI 53527  
P: 608-839-1013  
F: 608-839-1014  
[www.pfscorporation.com](http://www.pfscorporation.com)

RADCO (RAD)  
3220 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Long Beach, CA 90805  
P: 562-272-7231  
[www.radcoinc.com](http://www.radcoinc.com)

T.R Arnold & Associates, Inc. (TRA)  
700 East Beardsley Ave., Suite 2A  
P.O. Box 1081  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
P: 574-264-0745  
F: 574-264-0740  
[www.trarnold.com](http://www.trarnold.com)

The following is a list of third-party agencies that may have inspected homes in the past and are no longer in business:

Advanced Technology Inc (ATI)  
Brooks Engineering Co (BEC)  
Certified Approval Systems (CAS)  
DFR Engineering Company (DFR)  
The Dabney Group Inc (DGI)  
Designs Approvals Research Testing Inc (DRT)  
EMI Engineering Inc (EMI)  
Electrical Testing Laboratories (ETL)  
Glendon R. Mayo P.E. (GRM)  
Howie & Howie (HAH)  
Housing Engineers Inc (HEI)  
Hilborn, Werner, Carter & Associates (HWC)

Kenmar International Inc (KII)  
Landmark Labs Inc (LAN)  
Adams, Hodsdon & Associates (NRA)  
Northern Testing Laboratories (NTL)  
Progressive Engineering, Inc. (PEI)  
Professional Engineering Service (PES)  
Pittsburg Testing Laboratory (PTL)  
Reidlebatch & Associates (REI)  
RJG Engineering Inc (RJG)  
R & M Consultants (RMC)  
Underwriters Laboratories, Inc (ULI)  
U.S. Testing Co Inc (UST)

States also engaged in third-party activities and those states are:

Alaska (AKA)  
Arkansas (ARK)  
California (CAL)  
Colorado (COL)  
Illinois (ILL)  
Indiana (IND)

Louisiana (LOU)  
New York (NEY)  
New Mexico (NMX)  
Texas (TEX)  
Utah (UTA)  
Wisconsin (WIS)

Third parties are required to keep records on all HUD homes they label. Many keep them for so many years and then they send their records to HUD's third party, the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS). It all depends on the age of the home.

If you are contacting IBTS, there will be a cost to research the information. To do this electronically go to: <http://www.ibts.org/services/services-in-the-public-good/cert-label-verification.html>.