

What Do All the Letters and Numbers Mean in Transmission Designations?

The numbers and letters usually mean the following:

- Number of forward speeds. The number of forward speeds may include four, five, or six such as the GM 4T60-E four-speed unit and the ZF 5HP24 five-speed unit.
- Front-wheel drive or rear-wheel drive. The letter **T** usually means transverse (front-wheel-drive transaxle) such as the Chrysler 41-TE; the **L** means longitudinal (rear-wheel-drive transmission) such as the General Motors 6L80; and the **R** means rear wheel drive such as the Ford 5R55E.
- Electronically controlled. The letter **E** is often used to indicate that the unit is electronically controlled, and **M** or **H** is used to designate older mechanically (hydraulically) controlled units. Most automatic transmissions built since the early 1990s are electronically controlled and therefore the E is often included in the designation of newer designs of transmission or transaxles.
- Torque rating. The torque rating is usually designated by a number where the higher the number, the higher the amount of torque load the unit is designed to handle. In a GM 6L80-E, the torque rating is 80.

Always check service information for the exact transmission designation for the vehicle being studied.

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