

# Bloomington Gold

## ***PURPOSE***

Increase the interest in Corvette  
preservation, restoration, and collecting.

## ***VISION***

Since 1978, our vision has been that truly original engine Corvettes are special and that the Corvette community would recognize their rarity and desirability. We succeeded.

Our future vision is of a time when people can also feel comfortable about Corvettes that have been either restored to or preserved within 95-100% of their typical factory production as long as their original engines have been replaced with true copies of the original. Deserving vehicles should not be over-penalized.

Our most exciting vision is one where more “descriptive” terms used in Certification will help people understand which one is which, without having to rely on ambiguous Awards or Titles.

## ***MISSION***

Preserve the identity of Original engine Corvettes

## Goals

- Increase the appreciation of original engine Corvettes
- Increase the appreciation of great Corvettes with replacement engines
- Decrease the need to make the latter appear to be the former
- Decrease consumers' confusion which is which
- Decrease rampant and deceptive re-stamping
- Increase the enjoyment for owners and judges
- Increase the desire to preserve/restore/collect all Corvette types

## Our Strategy How To Do It

- Increase the recognition/reward for original engines
- Decrease the over-penalization of true replacement engines
- Distinguish between the two more clearly
- Remove the "need" to re-stamp engines
- Increase the use of common sense, data bases, and experienced inspectors
- Increase the incentive for owners to honestly reveal their knowledge
- Increase clarity of a Gold Certificate with Plain English
- Increase the penalties for misrepresentation

## What This Means To You

As long as a Corvette scores at least 95% and the engine stamps **APPEAR OEM, INCONCLUSIVE, or are Declared NON-OEM By The Owner**, it can be Gold Certified.

# Plain English Definitions (Not Standards)

## Blocks

### **Original Block**

Installed in “this” vehicle when driven out of the GMAD plant.

### **Replacement Block**

Subsequently installed in “this” vehicle after this vehicle’s original block was removed.

## Stampings

### **Original (OEM)**

Installed in the Original Block installed in “this” car by the engine/ vehicle assembly plant (OEM)

### **Inconclusive**

Contains characteristics (size, font, shape, location) not known among OEM stamp variations, yet unclear whether OEM or Reproduction.

### **CE Stamp**

GM Replacement blocks of same CID as the original engine.

### **Reproduction**

Subsequently installed or altered stamps after the block left the assembly plant in order to replicate or “resemble” OEM. *However, a non-trained person would **not** likely see the difference.*

### **Generic**

Similar to reproduction except that a *non-trained person **would** likely see the difference within 30 seconds when comparing side-by-side with an original stamp of the same type and date vehicle.*

### **Missing**

Either Original/Replacement block without VIN and/or Date/Suffix stamps

- Original untouched pad w/out stamps
- Decked pad w/out stamps
- Unreadable (too faint, incomplete, rusted, etc.)

### **Misrepresented**

Purposely altered configuration of a VIN tag, trim tag, engine suffix, date code, or block (including casting and date codes) different from the original assembly of “this” vehicle.

## **NOTE: RESTORATION ENGINES**

This is a misleading term with vague and ambiguous meanings.

- It **WILL NOT** be recognized by Bloomington Gold.
- Please **DO NOT** refer to any engines this way.

## Plain English Definitions (con't)

### OEM

- Appears OEM according to Inspection team's judgment based upon experience, logic, and knowledge of known data relative to engine/vehicle plant stamps.
- Regardless of probable anomalies, acceptable damage, deterioration, or repair, the preponderance of evidence *suggests* the stamps are original to the vehicle

### NON-OEM Includes

- CE stamps in GM replacement (Counter Exchanged) blocks typically under warranty
- Reproduction or replica stamps made to closely resemble OEM stamps (installed by other than the engine/vehicle assembly plant) due to the absence of the original stamps.
- Generic stamps that do not closely resemble OEM stamps.
- Missing stamps (pads without VIN and/or Date/Suffix)



### IMPORTANT NOTE

All Plain English definitions are subject to evolve quickly.  
Please see Bloomington Gold.com website for latest revisions.

# Judging Standards

## ELIGIBLE FOR GOLD CERTIFICATE

### ☐ **APPEAR OEM**

No detectable deviation from known OEM stamps  
(ghosts, rust, damage, anomaly OK)

### ☐ **INCONCLUSIVE**

Detectable deviation (size, font, shape, location, etc.) unknown among OEM stamp variations, yet unclear to inspector team whether or not OEM. Authenticity cannot be conclusively determined.

### ☐ **Owner Declared NON-OEM (Engine stamps not further evaluated)**

If owner openly declares this on application, the engine stamp pad will NOT be evaluated by an inspector but still remain eligible for Gold. Stamps may range from nearly perfect replicas to generic or totally missing (See Definitions Section). Since it has already been declared Non-OEM by the owner, there is nothing left for the inspectors to determine.

## LIMITED TO SILVER CERTIFICATE

On the other hand, if owner declares **OEM** or **I Don't Know** on the application, stamp inspectors will thoroughly evaluate the engine numbers using all available data, techniques, and knowledge. In the event that stamps are determined by the inspectors to be Non-OEM, the vehicle will NOT be eligible for Gold *that* year. However, if the owner applies the following year and openly declares Non-OEM on the vehicle application, it will then be eligible for Gold. i.e. Declared Non-OEM by Owner (see above).

### **Rule of Thumb:**

- If **OWNER** declares Non-OEM, the vehicle can get a Gold that year.
- If **INSPECTORS** declare Non-OEM, the vehicle can not get a Gold that year.

### **Good Advice:**

**If you already know your stamps are Non-OEM, declare them.**

**Don't waste your money and a year by not declaring them.**

## NOTES

1. In the past if an engine stamping was determined to deviate from typical factory production, the owner would have to spend time, money & effort trying to reproduce an engine stamping that did not deviate from OEM configurations. There was no guarantee it would fare any better. Under the new Standards, the owner simply needs to declare Non-OEM stamps the next time and the vehicle will then be eligible for Gold Certification. No more trying to figure out what was accurate enough.
2. Bloomington Gold does not support education leading to the perfecting of replica stampings. In order to protect the uniqueness of OEM configurations and prevent the continued dilution of OEM credibility and legitimacy, neither Bloomington Gold nor its inspectors will provide or explain any proprietary data or details of any deviations. Thank you for understanding.

# Procedures

## On the Pre-Registration Form

Owners must declare (check the box) which description (per the Definitions page) best fits the engine and stamps associated with their registered vehicle VIN.

BLOCK	STAMPINGS
<input type="checkbox"/> Original Block	<input type="checkbox"/> Original (OEM)
<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement Block	<input type="checkbox"/> CE (Counter Exchange/Warranty)
<input type="checkbox"/> I Don't Know	<input type="checkbox"/> Reproduction
	<input type="checkbox"/> Generic
	<input type="checkbox"/> Blank
	<input type="checkbox"/> I Don't Know

## On Certification Day

- If the owner declared either “*Original (OEM) Stamp*” or “*I Don't Know*”, the owner thereby grants consent for the stamp inspectors to closely inspect **all** stamps and castings and use **ALL available knowledge and tools** (magnification, cameras, photos, computers, lights, conferences, comparisons, etc) to determine what the stamp and casting numbers and dates appear to be.
  - If APPEARS OEM, it will be noted on form and be Gold eligible
  - If INCONCLUSIVE, it will be noted on form and be Gold eligible
  - If NON-OEM, it will be noted on form and be limited to Silver that year. However, the owner may return and declare Non-OEM stamps the next time and the vehicle will then be eligible for Gold. **To be eligible for Gold Certification, Non-OEM stamps must be declared Non-OEM by the owner, not inspectors.**
- If the owner declared Non-OEM, the engine stamp pad will NOT be evaluated by an inspector at all and **will still remain eligible for Gold**—regardless of the quality or presence of pad stampings.
- Regardless what the owner declares or what the inspectors determine, *any vehicle with trim/VIN tags, engine CID or suffix letters detected (by any means at any time) to be different from the vehicle's original assembly will be permanently disqualified.*