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# IADC Codes (International Association of Drilling Contractors)

The IADC bit classification uses 3 primary digits to classify the bit according to the Formation it is designed to drill in, the Hardness of the teeth, and the Bearing and/or Seal design used.

## 1st Digit

**STEEL TOOTH  
BITS  
1 - 3**

1 = SOFT  
 2 = MEDIUM  
 3 = HARD

**TUNGSTEN  
CARBIDE TCI  
BITS  
4 - 8**

4 = VERY SOFT  
 5 = SOFT  
 6 = MEDIUM  
 7 = HARD  
 8 = VERY HARD

## 2nd Digit

**1 - 4**

1 = SOFTEST  
 4 = HARDEST

## 3rd Digit

### BEARING / SEAL / GAUGE WEAR

- 1 = Standard Open Bearing Roller Bit with Fluid Circulation.
  - 2 = Standard Open bearing Roller Bit for AIR drilling only.
  - 3 = Standard Open Bearing Roller Bit with gauge protection inserts. \*
  - 4 = Ball & Roller Sealed Bearing with Fluid Circulation.
  - 5 = Ball & Roller Sealed Bearing with gauge protection inserts. \*
  - 6 = Journal Sealed Bearing.
  - 7 = Journal Sealed Bearing with gauge protection inserts. \*
- \* Gauge protection inserts are defined as TCI inserts in the heel of the cone or in the Shirrtail.

## 4th Digit

The fourth digit letter code is used to indicate additional features.

- |                       |                           |                            |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| A = Air application.  | S = Standard steel tooth. | Y = Conical insert.        |
| R = Reinforced welds. | D = Deviation control.    | G = Extra gage protection. |
| C = Center jet.       | X = Chisel insert.        | Z = Other insert shape.    |
|                       | E = Extended jet.         | J = Jet deflection.        |

# Bearing Types:

There are primarily four (4) common types of bearing designs used in tricone bits.

**Standard Open Bearing Roller Bit:** This type of bit has a front row of ball bearings and a back row of roller bearing that allows the cones to spin freely.

**Standard Open Bearing Roller Bit for Air Drilling:** Similar to above but have air injection directly into the cones, through passageways inside the pin, to cool the bearings. (Not for mud applications.)

**Sealed Bearing Roller Bits:** This type of bit has O-ring seals and grease reservoirs to cool the bearings. The seals act as a mud and cuttings barrier protecting the bearings.

**Journal Bearing Roller Bits:** This type of bit is strictly oil/grease cooled with nose bearings, O-ring seals and races for maximum performance.

