

The reason for this is the previous use of the schema namespace. Until the last distributed schema version (1.1.0) the version of the VEC schema was encoded in the XML namespace(eg http://www.prostep.org/ecad-if/vec/1.1.0/VEC_modelSchema). This means that when a new version of the schema is released, basically all existing VEC instance documents would no longer valid, regardless of whether there have been changes to the used schema elements or not. In particular, pure extensions of the schema would automatically invalidate existing instances. This is particularly in the case of backward compatible changes or when using the “VEC schema modules” a highly undesirable side effect. For this reason, the vehicle electrical PG has decided to publish in future all new versions of the VEC schema under the same target namespace (<http://www.prostep.org/ecad-if/2011/vec>). The version of the schema is clearly marked by the *version* attribute of the *xs:schema* element. All created instance documents carry their version information in the attribute *VecVersion* at the root element *VecContent*. This attribute is in the future of type enumeration, defining the valid version literals. Since both at VW and BMW VEC interfaces are about to go live, the VDA project group has decided to fix this issue in short-time and published a version 1.1.1.

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