
Minimum Requirements for Prototype Protection

The Minimum Requirements represent a uniform industry-wide standard for Prototype Protection in the automotive industry to be used by manufacturers (OEMs) and their contractors.

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General

Prototype Protection includes vehicles, components and parts which are classified as requiring protection that have not yet been presented to the public and/or published in a suitable form by the OEM.

The contracting department of the OEM is responsible for classifying the protection need of vehicles, components and parts. The Minimum Requirements for Prototype Protection for the protection classes High and Very High shall be applied according to VDA ISA.

The VDA ISA catalogue defines the following general protection classes for companies, depending on the potential damage:

Protection class	Description
Normal	The potential for damage is low, of short-term nature and limited to a single company.
High	The potential for damage is considerable, or of medium-term nature, or not limited to a single company.
Very High	The potential for damage threatens the company's existence, or is of long-term nature, or is not limited to a single company.

Table 1: Overview of protection classes as in the VDA ISA

During the development process, special protection of innovations and the design is required. Regarding these processes, special attention should be paid to analyzing the risks, conducting effective protection measures, and monitoring the efficiency of the protection measures. Suitable procedures have to be applied and documented to ensure that all this is carried out.

It is the responsibility of each contractor to comply with these requirements for Prototype Protection. Each contractor is obliged to obtain the client-specific requirements.

The following table illustrates the target groups of Minimum Requirements for Prototype Protection, structured according to the chapters:

Requirements	Target group
1. Physical and environmental security	Any companies which, on their own properties, manufacture, store or are provided for use vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection.
2. Organizational requirements	Any companies which manufacture or are provided for use vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection.
3. Handling of vehicles, components and parts	Any companies which manufacture or are provided for use vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection.
4. Requirements for test vehicles	Any companies which manufacture or are provided for use test vehicles classified as requiring protection.
5. Requirements for events and photo/film shootings	Any company contracted with the planning, preparation or execution of events or photo/film shootings involving vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection.

Table 2: Overview of target groups of VDA Minimum Requirements for Prototype Protection

1 Physical and environmental security

The measures required for Prototype Protection must be applied and implemented to the properties and facilities of suppliers, development partners and service providers.

A security concept must be established by the respective operator. In particular, the following range of topics must be included:

1.1 Perimeter security

Unauthorized access to protected objects must be prevented. For this purpose, the environment must be protected (e.g. using fences / walls). Where this is not feasible, the outer skin of the building must be protected using suitable materials or devices (e.g. grilles, security glass).

1.2 Stability of outer skin

The outer skin of the buildings must be made of a solid construction (e.g. stone, concrete, steel/other metal). It must not be possible to remove or open outer-skin components using commercially available tools.

1.3 View and sight protection

View and sight protection must be ensured in all areas where vehicles or design-relevant parts/components are processed or stored. This includes both the relevant glass surfaces of buildings and protective measures for preventing insight/view through open doors / gates / windows.

1.4 Prevention of unauthorized access and access control

An access concept must be established for the areas to be protected, regulating and documenting the assignment of access rights. This can be achieved by means of both mechanical and electronic access control systems.

1.5 Intrusion alarm system

At the secured premises, the existence of a functioning intrusion alarm system (e.g. complying with DIN EN 50131 or conforming to VDS or similar) shall be installed.

Alarm tracking must be conducted by a certified security service / control center. An alternative to the intrusion alarm system is 24/7 guarding by a certified security service.

Alarm reaction plans must be established and verified.

1.6 Visitor management

All visitors are subject to compulsory registration. In addition, they must agree to a non-disclosure agreement prior to access. Registration and non-disclosure agreement must be documented. Security and visitor regulations shall be published for all visitors. National legislation regarding data protection must be observed.

1.7 Client separation

Projects of different clients must be kept physically separate. This separation can be achieved by means of mobile equipment (e.g. mobile partitions or curtains). Additionally, separation between different projects should be possible.

The responsible operator must ensure implementation of and adherence to the physical and environmental security measures defined in the security concept.

2 Organizational requirements

In order to ensure security of actions for all project members and to prevent undesirable publications of information requiring protection, the following requirements must be met:

2.1 Obligations of secrecy

There must be a documented secrecy agreement/obligation with the client, which is valid regarding contract law.

All employees and other persons involved in the project must sign a non-disclosure agreement. National data protection legislation must be regarded.

2.2 Subcontractors

Subcontractors must be approved by the original client and must also agree to be bound by secrecy. Documentary evidence must be provided that subcontractors comply with the security regulations.

2.3 Awareness

At regular intervals (at least once a year), employees and other persons involved in the project must be sensitized to and/or receive training for information security, particularly on the subjects of Prototype Protection. These measures must be documented in a written form.

2.4 Security classification

The current security classification and the resulting security requirements for the project must be known to every person involved in the project.

2.5 Access control

A process for controlling access to security areas defining new allocations, changes and withdrawals of access rights as well as a code of conduct in case of loss must be implemented and documented.

2.6 Photography and filming regulation

The handling of photo and film material must be managed centrally. This includes an approval procedure, classification, saving and storage of the image material.

2.7 Mobile devices with video and photo function

Regulations must be in place governing mobile devices with video and/or photo function, which may be brought onto the premises and used (e.g. locking away/sealing such devices).

3 Handling of vehicles, components and parts

The OEM-specific requirements for the handling of vehicles, components and parts classified as requiring protection are known to each project member.

3.1 Transport

During transport (by air freight, sea freight, on the road), vehicles, components and parts classified as requiring protection must be protected against unauthorized viewing, unauthorized image recording and access. A process for reporting any security-relevant incidents to the client is described and implemented. Transports requiring protection must be carried out in accordance with the client's requirements.

3.2 Parking and storage

The parking and storage of vehicles, components and parts classified as requiring protection is permitted only on approved premises and under observation of further client requirements (e.g. tarpaulins).

4 Requirements for test vehicles

A process for obtaining client-specific requirements for the use of test vehicles classified as requiring protection is described and implemented. The requirements described in this chapter are not relevant to components and parts.

4.1 Camouflage

The camouflage regulations must be observed by the project members. Any modifications to the camouflage must be agreed with the client. Possible damages to the camouflage must be reported immediately to the client.

4.2 Test center and proving grounds

In order to maintain an undisturbed and secured testing operation on test and proving grounds, the protection instructions defined by the relevant client must be followed.

4.3 Test drives on public roads

The respective client's requirements for the operation of test vehicles classified as requiring protection on public roads must be observed. This includes, among others, the individual requirements of the clients concerning the scope and type of protective measures (e.g. camouflage, security staff, restrictions regarding time and location) as well as the behaviour in case of special incidents (e.g. in case of breakdown, accident, theft, damage to property).

5 Requirements for events and photo/film productions

The OEM-specific requirements for the handling of vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection are known to each project member.

5.1 Presentations and events

For presentations and events involving vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection (e.g. at car clinics, events, marketing events), appropriate security concepts must be established and implemented. These include organizational, staff-related and technical measures.

5.2 Film and photo shootings

For film and photo shootings involving vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection outside approved areas (e.g. in public areas), individual security concepts must be drawn up by the clients or by their certified representatives. These have to be observed already at the planning stage and must be implemented in full.

Film and photo shootings involving vehicles, components or parts classified as requiring protection within enclosed premises (e.g. studios) are subject to the previously described requirements for the physical and environmental security, organizational requirements and requirements for handling.

Revision history

Version	Published	Title	Extent of changes
3.0	2018	Minimum requirements for Prototype Protection	Differentiation between requirements according to assets and target groups.
2.0	2016	Minimum requirements for Prototype Protection	Realignment.
1.0	2005	Framework Requirements for the Protection of New Developments in the German Automotive Industry (Prototype Protection)	Initial issue.
