Subject: Data models, ids, codes and keys

Dear all,

from my experience there is sometimes a little confusion about the meaning of the attributes "id", "code", "number", and some other of that kind. So I have written some general ideas on the meaning and usage of these attributes in [1].

The background is just to document the current situation in RailML, possibly to help "beginners" to understand these sometimes confusing attributes, and to avoid possible misunderstandings. Especially it was our intention for a long time to clarify that one should not expect some 'contents' or deeper 'meaning' behind the attribute 'id'. This should be a start to do so.

It is important for me to declare that I do not want to initiate any change of the existing data structures - it is just documentation, no request nor suggestion.

Any comments would be appreciated.

With best regards,
Dirk.

[1] www.irfp.de/download/railml_data_models.pdf