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Media Release

11th Allianz Motor Day

Battery data is the new mileage

Allianz demands at the 11th Allianz Motor Day:

- a battery condition certificate to determine the value of electric vehicles
- an early warning system to prevent fire
- appropriate diagnostic and repair solutions for high-voltage batteries to reduce claim costs and facilitate recycling

In the future, the electric car battery will determine the value of a vehicle in the same way that mileage did in the past - but at the moment, drivers can hardly make any reliable statements about the condition of the battery because the data is not shown on the display. The new EU Data Act will soon make this and many other vehicle data available quickly and easily at the request of car owners. Which opportunities the new EU law opens up for car owners, innovative digital companies and road safety was discussed by the participants at the 11th Allianz Motor Day at the Allianz Center for Technology (AZT) in Ismaning.

The stronger the battery, the higher the vehicle value

Replacing an electric vehicle's battery costs between 13,000 and around 46,000 euros - making it the most expensive component of the electric drive system. Its condition determines a vehicle's suitability for everyday use and its value. "With electric vehicles, the battery data is the new mileage. Negative influences on the battery can easily lead to an increased loss of capacity of up to 20 percent," said Frank Sommerfeld, CEO of Allianz Versicherungs-AG, at the 11th Allianz Motor Day. "In the long term, this leads to a significantly increased loss in value of the vehicle. Depending on the manufacturer and model, this can be up to 25 percent, and in individual cases even more."

Unfavourable effects include, for example, frequent quick charging, long standing times, high ambient temperatures, a state of charge that is too low, and not adhering to the charging recommendation of between 10 and 80 percent. If a vehicle is also integrated into the power grid (Car2Grid) and thus undergoes additional charging and discharging cycles, this also has an impact on service life without the vehicle being moved.

Uncertainty about battery condition inhibits used car market for electric vehicles

When it comes to selling a vehicle, uncertainty about the condition of the battery can be a significant obstacle to a sale of value. "Partly because the all-important battery data is often missing, the used market for e-vehicles is not taking off," Sommerfeld said. "Knowing the exact condition, and therefore the value of the battery, is important for anyone looking to buy or sell an electric vehicle. We therefore demand that an independent certificate on the condition of the battery is presented when selling or buying a used electric vehicle. This is the only way to ensure that in the future the used car trade can be handled in a data-based and correct manner," said Sommerfeld.

The same applies to the processing of accident claims. Only continuous monitoring can provide users with ongoing transparency on the condition of the battery. If the battery has been severely damaged in an accident, a condition assessment and thus proof of the correct current value can be provided. This applies in particular if it is not possible to diagnose the battery's condition due to the damage. If, for example, individual battery modules are to remain usable in the interests of sustainability, their lifetime consumption and chemical composition must be known.

Allianz calls for easy access to battery data

The future regulations of the EU Data Act will make it possible for our customers to easily access the data they generate. This will significantly improve damage assessment in the future, especially damage analysis for batteries. An ideal process for damage assessment is the combination of mechanical analysis on the battery case and electronic diagnosis of the battery's condition. The diagnosis and associated repair option for batteries creates significant benefits for customers - both in terms of repair cost reduction and improved type classes, as well as product sustainability over the lifecycle of the vehicle. "We therefore call for essential vehicle data for battery diagnostics, time value determination and battery prediction models to be continuously provided by vehicle manufacturers," Sommerfeld said.

Early warning system for fire risks

In the future, suitable sensors that for instance detect CO₂ and hydrogen, as well as appropriate data analysis, could be used to continuously monitor the battery condition in the in-vehicle system. This will enable electric vehicles - analogous to eCall - to provide early warning of potential fire risks. "An automatic early warning system in electric vehicles for fire detection would be a great advantage, especially for damage prevention, as potentially defective cells can be detected at an early stage. But also, after a traffic accident, such monitoring leads to improvements, for example, in the deployment of fire or rescue services, towing, parking or in the care of repair shops," Sommerfeld said. "As a basic requirement for such warning systems, international, uniform standards for the information provided, data transmission and appropriate responses, as well as regulations for the responsibility of data transmission, must be created in the future."

Munich, October 17, 2023

All press materials and the recording of the entire event as well as information on the EU Data Act can be found here: <https://events.techcast.cloud/de/allianz/11-allianz-autotag-2023-de>

Further press releases from Allianz Versicherungs-AG can be found on our Internet portal <https://www.allianzdeutschland.de/allianzdeutschland.de/presse>.

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