AgGateway XML Schema Namespace and Prefix Guidelines

This guideline applies to the implementation of the XML schema namespace and prefixes used in the agricultural industry among many segments. Below are the implementation of the various projects, which over time may have changed, but at the time of the project indicate their preference in using namespace prefixes.

Ag Chemical Accelerated Electronic Connectivity (AEC) Project:
The messages must be valid against the Ag eStandards ProductMovementReport v4.0 schema (this is not new). Messages should specify the default namespace to be “urn:cidx:names:specification:ces:schema:all:4:0”. Namespace prefixes should not be used.

The first six lines of a ProductMovementReport4.0 would typically look like:

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<ProductMovementReport Version="4.0" xmlns="urn:cidx:names:specification:ces:schema:all:4:0">
<Header>
</ProductMovementReport>
</Header>
</ProductMovementReport>
```

The reason for the above guideline is that some AEC participants report that XML namespaces is a challenging concept and that doing things “one way” permits consistent AEC project participation and use without fully understanding this underlying namespace concept. Additionally, some participants questioned the capability of their EAI tools to support namespace prefixes in general, or more specifically, namespace prefixes that may vary from message to message.

Furthermore, adoption of this guideline does not preclude future use of XML namespace prefixes. This is important since it is highly likely that as the Ag eStandards mature and evolve additional standard setting entities outside of CIDX will be utilized for business message creation. This would require use of namespace prefixes to identify their particular message semantics.

Crop Nutrient Connectivity (CNC) Project:
XML namespaces are a W3C recommendation for providing uniquely named elements and attributes in an XML instance. An XML instance may contain element or attribute names from more than one XML Vocabulary. If each vocabulary is given a namespace then the ambiguity between identically named elements or attributes can be resolved.

Consider the first few lines of a ShipNotice message in the example below. The xmlns: attribute specifies the URN of the schema for our message. In our example the prefix “NS0” is used in subsequent tags to easily identify which vocabulary the message part is from.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<ns0:ShipNotice xmlns:ns0="urn:cidx:names:DRAFT_0014:ces:schema:all:5:0" Version="5.0_DRAFT_0014">
<ns0:Header>
</ns0:Header>
<ns0:ThisDocumentDateTime>
</ns0:ThisDocumentDateTime>
```
In February 2008, the participants agreed that namespaces and namespace prefixes may be included in all messages that make use of Ag eStandards XML version 5.0 schemas.