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The new type IV liveries: above 1st class and below 2nd class.

Photos: Courtesy SBB



SBB's fleet of over 500 type IV inter-city coaches are to be completely renovated over the coming years. The guiding principles behind what really amounts to a full reconstruction are comfort and aesthetic style, and will raise the standard to that of contemporary new vehicles. Base white with black window surrounds replace the traditional green we have all come to know, and in some cases love. The aesthetic direction SBB have taken with the newly built double deck stock is thus confirmed. By December 2004 all the inter-city fleet will be in the new design. Approximately 520 type IV vehicles will be renovated and overhauled in SBB's own Olten workshops.

The first vehicles in the new internal and external designs and liveries were presented to the press on 13/12/2000 and will go into service immediately. It was decided to change the liveries and interiors as the whole fleet was due

for major overhaul anyway, the oldest vehicles being 18 years old and having completed over 5,000,000 kms since introduction.

The coaches will leave the workshops with a sealed vacuum toilet system (thus ending the "do not use whilst the train is in the station tradition") together with renewed air conditioning and electrics. Seat moquette in 2nd class becomes base anthracite with yellow, red and light blue rectangles forming a pattern. The black armrests, and beige panel lining and interior window surrounds are coordinated with the seats. Cycle racks have been added to one entrance in each coach. The design for the 1st class is still to be finalised. Cost of the renovation is estimated to be approximately SFr180,000,000. Also worthy of note is that from 2001 large numbers of the remaining 1200 green coaches dating from the 1950s and 60s will be withdrawn.