

PAS 1296:2018 – Upgrade to a Standard (& then to an International Standard)

Title: Age Verification

Key Principles:

1. We are not concerned with the reason for the age assurance decision being taken or required.
2. It must be product, jurisdiction and methodology agnostic. Age Assurance can be online or offline.
3. Age Assurance is distinct from Identity. The specification is not about identity, although establishing identity may be one method of identifying an age attribute.
4. It is proposed that there are three defined types of age assurance: determination, categorisation and estimation.
5. It is an evolution of the core of PAS 1296:2018, but extended, improved and auditable.
6. It should be simple, expressed in simple digestible language.
7. It is proposed that each type of age assurance can be demonstrated to four levels of confidence: basic, standard, enhanced and strict.
8. It will enable a marketplace and audit/certification ecosystem to be commercially operable.
9. The PAS could refer to and repurpose established, scientific testing methodologies such as those set out in ISO/IEC 30107-1:2016 relating biometric systems testing.
10. It will be a springboard for International Standards on AV – led by the UK.

Proposed Scope of the PAS:

“This PAS sets out a common specification for age assurance processes deployed for the purpose of enabling age related decisions by anybody for any reason in any location through any type of relationship between a citizen and the provider of any product, content or service that has requirements for age assurance.

It provides for the definition, requirements, analysis, audit, testing and certification of three types of age assurance:

- Age **determination** – an indication established that a citizen has a particular age stated to a specified level of confidence and by reference to information related to that citizen
- Age **categorisation** – an indication established that a citizen is of an age that is within a category of ages, over a certain age or under a certain age to a specified level of confidence and by reference to information or factors related to that citizen
- Age **estimation** – an indication by estimation that a citizen is likely to fall within a category of ages, over a certain age or under a certain age to a specified level of confidence by reference to inherent features or behaviours related to that citizen

The PAS defines:

- *A common vocabulary, including the key terms, definitions and abbreviations applicable to the age assurance process*
- *The roles, responsibilities and procedures of key actors in the age assurance process, including the requirement to establish age assurance policies and securing age assurance outcomes that are not potentially tainted by conflicts of interest*
- *The process of securing parental consent, legal guardian consent, third party attestation*
- *The requirements for establishing the levels of confidence (basic, standard, enhanced or strict) associated with each of the three types of age assurance, including the methodology for testing and statistical analysis of the veracity of the output of age verification systems*
- *A common specification for how source(s), output(s), level(s) of confidence and trust framework are established and communicated to other actors in the age assurance process*
- *The requirements for data minimisation, privacy protection, data security and information systems management that are specific to age assurance processes (in addition to other International Standards that deal with this subject) including the consumer expectations and redress for how their data may be used for the age assurance process and thereafter*
- *A common language to enable systems interoperability such as Age Exchange Frameworks or reusable age assurance results, this can include for interoperability vertically and horizontally in the market place and can include for vectors of trust*
- *The physical or digital presentation of age assurance results by citizens and interoperability with retail or online systems, including reference to encryption and cyber security standards*
- *The certification, intelligent monitoring and testing ecosystem including frequency and depth of required audit, monitoring and testing activities*

The PAS enables policy makers (like government, regulators or age restricted product, content or service providers) to specify the applicable types of age assurance and level of confidence for their particular policy requirement.

The PAS does not:

- *Establish or hinder the establishment of any methodologies for age assurance systems – it is technology agnostic*
- *Establish or recommend the age assurance thresholds or determine the required levels of confidence for different products, content or services – that is a matter for policy makers*
- *Deal with financial or commercial models for age assurance systems – that is a matter for economic operators in the age assurance process*

Intended Uses of the PAS:

The PAS is intended to:

- *Enable policy makers to specify requirements for age assurance with confidence*
- *Enable age assurance systems providers to build and deploy their systems to a common framework with confidence*
- *Enable providers of age restricted products, content and services to make age assurance decisions with confidence*
- *Establish a trust framework with audit, certification, intelligent monitoring and testing*
- *Enable citizens to verify their age through systems and processes that they can have confidence in, including the confidence that their privacy will be protected and their data secure*