



**Human Factors (HF);
Age Verification Pre-Standardization Study
Part 3: Proposed Standardization Roadmap**

Document Preview

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Foreword

This Technical Report (TR) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Human Factors (HF).

The present document is part 3 of a multi-part deliverable covering Age Verification Pre-Standardization Study, as identified below:

Part 1: "Stakeholder Requirements";

Part 2: "Solutions and Standards Landscape";

Part 3: "Proposed Standardization Roadmap".

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document **"should"**, **"should not"**, **"may"**, **"need not"**, **"will"**, **"will not"**, **"can"** and **"cannot"** are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

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1 Scope

The present document elaborates a set of proposals for further definition of work items within the standardization community to address the requirements identified in ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1] against the gaps identified and summarized in ETSI TR 104 077-2 [i.2].

The present document is intended for the SDOs identified in the proposals for their further consideration.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

Normative references are not applicable in the present document.

2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication ETSI cannot guarantee their long-term validity.

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

[i.1] ETSI TR 104 077-1: "Human Factors (HF); Age Verification Pre-Standardization Study Part 1: Stakeholder Requirements".

[i.2] ETSI TR 104 077-2: "Human Factors (HF); Age Verification Pre-Standardization Study Part 2: Solutions and Standards Landscape".

[i.3] Rudyard Kipling: "[The Elephant's child](#)", in Just So Stories, 1902.

[i.4] ETSI TR 103 370: "Practical introductory guide to Technical Standards for Privacy".

[i.5] ETSI TR 103 305-5: "Cyber Security (CYBER); Critical Security Controls for Effective Cyber Defence; Part 5: Privacy and personal data protection enhancement".

[i.6] European Commission, Working party on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data: "[Opinion 05/2014 on Anonymisation Techniques](#)".

[i.7] [ETSI Technical Committee Securing Artificial Intelligence \(SAI\) Work programme](#).

[i.8] [CEN/CENELEC JTC21 Work programme](#).

NOTE: CEN/CENELEC JTC21 works alongside ISO SC42 and is expected to consider the adoption of their output.

[i.9] [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1689](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence act).

[i.10] [Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2065](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act).

[i.11] ETSI TS 102 165-2 (V4.2.1) (02-2007): "Telecommunications and Internet converged Services and Protocols for Advanced Networking (TISPAN); Methods and protocols; Part 2: Protocol Framework Definition; Security Counter Measures".

NOTE: An update is in development in ETSI TC CYBER planned for completion in late Q2-2025.

[i.12] [ISO 7010:2019](#): "Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Registered safety signs".

[i.13] [Directive \(EU\) 2019/882](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services (Text with EEA relevance).

[i.14] [ETSI EN 301 549 \(V3.2.1\) \(2021-03\)](#): "Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services".

[i.15] [ISO 9241-210:2019](#): "Ergonomics of human-system interaction; Part 210: Human-centred design for interactive systems; Edition 2; 2019".

[i.16] Interaction Design Foundation: "[Design for All](#)".

[i.17] Centre for Excellence in Universal Design: "[The 7 Principles](#)".

[i.18] PubMed Central: "[Exploring the Feasibility and Acceptability of Technological Interventions to Prevent Adolescents' Exposure to Online Pornography: Qualitative Research](#)", JMIR Pediatrics and Parenting, 5 November 2024; 7:e58684. doi: 10.2196/58684.

[i.19] Yonder Consulting: "[Adult Users' Attitudes to Age Verification on Adult Sites](#)", 2022.

[i.20] IEA: "[Why Online Age Verification will give us the worst of both worlds](#)", 2024.

[i.21] EDRI (European Digital Rights): "[Online age verification and children's rights](#)", Position paper, 4 October 2023.

[i.22] ETSI TS 102 165-1: "CYBER; Methods and protocols; Part 1: Method and pro forma for Threat, Vulnerability, Risk Analysis (TVRA)".

[i.23] [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/881](#) on the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity and on information and communications technology cybersecurity certification (Cybersecurity Act).

[i.24] [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/2847](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 on horizontal cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013 and (EU) No 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2020/1828 (Cyber Resilience Act).

[i.25] [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

[i.26] [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1183](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as regards establishing the European Digital Identity Framework.

[i.27] [Architecture Proposal for the German eIDAS Implementation](#).

NOTE: The proposal above includes an option to issue credentials in batches.

[i.28] ETSI TS 102 165-3: "Cyber Security (CYBER); Methods and Protocols for Security Part 3: Vulnerability Assessment extension for TVRA".

[i.29] UNICEF: "[The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)".

NOTE: A slightly modified children's version is available from <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>.

[i.30] ETSI TR 103 936: "Cyber Security (CYBER); Implementing Design practices to mitigate consumer IoT-enabled coercive control".

[i.31] CNIL: "Online age verification: balancing privacy and the protection of minors".

- [i.32] [euCONSENT home webpage](#).
- [i.33] euCONSENT: "AgeAware® Specification - Consultation Document".
- [i.34] "Age verification system for access to online content: Age verification protocol".
- [i.35] W3C® Group Note: "[Verifiable Credentials Overview](#)".
- [i.36] Italian Legislative Decree 15 September 2023: "Urgent measures to combat youth hardship, educational poverty and juvenile crime, as well as for the safety of minors in the digital environment", (Caivano Decree).
- [i.37] [AGCOM Public Digital Identity System \(SPID\)](#).
- [i.38] ETSI TS 102 940: "Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS); Security; ITS communications security architecture and security management; Release 2".
- [i.39] [CEN/TC 224/WG 18 Work programme](#): "Interoperability of Biometric Recorded Data".

3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the terms given in ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1], ETSI TR 104 077-2 [i.2] and the following apply:

estimation: determination of the value of a thing based on subjective criteria

NOTE 1: This is derived from the definition of age estimation given in ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1] and ETSI TR 104 077-2 [i.2] to distinguish from the term verification that relies on objective criteria.

NOTE 2: Estimation can itself use objective criteria in support of its determination.

high assurance level: assurance that ICT products, ICT services and ICT processes where the corresponding security requirements, including security functionalities, are provided at a level intended to minimize the known cybersecurity risks, and the risk of incidents and cyberattacks carried out by actors with significant skills and resources

NOTE 1: A contextual definition is given in CSA Article 52.7 [i.23].

NOTE 2: A mapping from the CSA [i.23] definition to the metrics for risk analysis is given in ETSI TS 102 165-3 [i.28] and in ETSI TS 102 165-1 [i.22].

minor: someone who has not yet reached the age when they get full legal rights and responsibilities

NOTE: Taken from the law dictionary at <https://www.legalchoices.org.uk/dictionary/minor>.

substantial assurance level: assurance that the ICT products, ICT services and ICT processes where the corresponding security requirements, including security functionalities, are provided at a level intended to minimize the known cybersecurity risks, and the risk of incidents and cyberattacks carried out by actors with limited skills and resources

NOTE 1: A contextual definition is given in CSA Article 52.6 [i.23].

NOTE 2: A mapping from the CSA [i.23] definition to the metrics for risk analysis is given in ETSI TS 102 165-3 [i.28] and ETSI TS 102 165-1 [i.22].

verification: confirmation, through the provision of objective evidence, that specified requirements have been fulfilled

3.2 Symbols

Void.

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1], ETSI TR 104 077-2 [i.2] and the following apply:

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AV	Age Verification
CAB	Conformity Assessment Bodies
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
CNIL	Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés
CRA	Cyber Resilience Act
CSA	Cyber Security Act
DAC	Discretionary Access Control
EN	European Standard
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute
HF	Human Factors
IEEE	Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
MAC	Mandatory Access Control
SDO	Standards Development Organization
TC	Technical Committee
TR	Technical Report
TS	Technical Specification

4 Summary of identified standards gaps

From the analysis summarized in clause 7 of ETSI TR 104 077-2 [i.2], it can be shown that whilst standards exist across the SDO eco-system (see also ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1]) there are some gaps in the overall availability of standards. It is also clear from the analysis that there is a potential overlap of standardization activity that needs to be either eradicated, or clear guidance given to the applicability of each available standard to give assurance of age attestations. Table 1 is taken from clause 7 of [i.2] and has been copied and further annotated below using a traffic light system (summarized in the second column for accessibility purpose):

- Red (summarized by R and highlighted with corresponding row in darker colour) is used to indicate that there is no clear candidate standard available from an evaluated SDO;
- Amber (A) is used to indicate that multiple standards exist where clarification of their role in age verification is required; and
- Green (G) is used to indicate that a single standard exists that may be directly applied in age estimation subject to further analysis. The result from the applied colour coding is given in plain text after the table.

NOTE: The list of SDOs that have been analysed is necessarily truncated as a consequence of the resources available to prepare the present document and any follow-on activity recommended in the present document may identify additional resources that may be applied to age verification.

Table 1: A summary of SDO activity mapped to the requirements from ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1]

Requirement (from ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1])	R/A/G	CEN	ETSI Cyber	ETSI ESI	ETSI HF	IEEE	ISO/IEC	ITU
Access control & content limitation	A			4		1		
Compliance and governance	A		6	4		1		
Data security	A		4					
Enhanced security	A		3					
Ethical guidelines and user rights	G					1		
EUDI wallets and audits	A							
Implementation and best practices	A	1	5				7	
Implementation and compliance	A		1	4		1		
Implementation and governance	A		5	4				
Inclusion and accessibility	A	1			4			
Parental consent mechanisms	R							
Privacy and data protection	A		8			1	5	
Privacy by design	A		2					
Privacy-preserving methods	A						3	
Redress mechanisms	A							
Rights and safeguards	A	1				2		
Support and education	R							
Transparency & information provision	G					1		
User-friendly solutions	A	1			4	1		

In summary, for each of the two topics of Ethics, and Transparency and Information Provision, only one SDO has been identified in the context of the study for the present document, given in ETSI TR 104 077-2 [i.2], namely IEEE for work on Ethics (see also clause 5.8 of the present document) and ETSI TC HF for matters relating to Transparency and Information Provision (see also clause 5.4 of the present document). No provisions from the SDOs that have been examined provide standards to address Support and Education, and similarly no SDO has been explicitly identified that addresses Parental Control, although for the latter many of the provisions for Access Control apply and this is addressed in more detail in clause 5.3 of the present document.

In similar manner to Table 1, a similar exercise filtering and classification of nation state activity has been summarized in ETSI TR 104 077-2 [i.2] and given in Table 2 below, using a similar traffic light indication of readiness as for Table 1, where green in this case indicates broad support of the topic, amber indicating only a single nation addressing the topic, and red indicating no support. The result from the applied colour coding is given in plain text after the table.

Table 2: A summary of nation state activity mapped to the requirements from ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1]

Requirement (from ETSI TR 104 077-1 [i.1])	R/A/G	France	Germany	Italy	Ireland	Spain	UK
Access control & content limitation	G	1	1			1	2
Compliance and governance	G	1	1		1	1	3
Data security	R						
Enhanced security	R						
Ethical guidelines and user rights	A				1		
EUDI wallets and audits	G				1	1	3
Implementation and best practices	G		1		1	1	
Implementation and compliance	G	1			1	1	1
Implementation and governance	A					1	
Inclusion and accessibility	A						1
Parental consent mechanisms	G			1		1	
Privacy and data protection	G	1				3	2
Privacy by design	A	1					
Privacy-preserving methods	A					1	
Redress mechanisms	R						
Rights and safeguards	G				1	1	1
Support and education	R						
Transparency & information provision	G						2
User-friendly solutions	R						

NOTE: The Digital Services Act [i.10], where applicable, may give pan-EU support to provisions of Rights and safeguards