

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.7.2026)

There is no specific mandatory method for age checks prescribed in the Digital Services Act¹. The guidelines on the protection of minors² under the Digital Services Act set out clear guidance on the circumstances in which, depending on the level of risks, the Commission considers the use of age assurance methods, like age estimation or age verification, appropriate and proportionate measures to ensure a high level of privacy, safety, and security of minors.

The blueprint presented on 15 April 2026³ is feature-complete and constitutes an early reference implementation of the European age verification solution. It was released openly for scrutiny prior to public deployment. Some of the issues raised by independent experts were well founded and have been corrected by the development consortium, with an updated version made available shortly thereafter and further improvements to follow.

The age verification blueprint does not require any linking of accounts to government-issued IDs. The system has been specifically designed to enable users to prove their age without sharing any identity data or personal details. Platforms receive only a cryptographic confirmation (no raw data), which ensures unlinkability and no centralised storage of data is carried out.

Although a government-issued ID may be used to generate the proof of age, this process relies exclusively on local device processing. The ID is never transmitted to anyone, and any data used for the issuance is deleted once the issuance process has been performed.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C_202505519.

³ <https://ageverification.dev/>.