

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 - AGE CHECKS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Ofcom has published a statement and guidance on age assurance and children's access assessments, outlining what online services must do under the Online Safety Act to help prevent children from encountering pornography and other harmful content.

Online providers must take action to start to comply with these new rules. Services that allow pornography must introduce processes to check the age of users by July 2025. In addition, all user-to-user and search services must carry out a children's access assessment to establish if their service is likely to be used by children by 16 April.

Once the Protection of Children Codes and guidance are finalised in April 2025, platforms likely to be used by children will need to assess the risks and take appropriate action – which may include using age assurance.

Ofcom has also announced an age assurance enforcement programme which will involve reaching out to adult services to inform them of their obligations under the Online Safety Act.

What are online services required to do, and by when?

Read the full OFCOM guidance at

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/age-checks-to-protect-children-online/>



ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 - *EXPLAINER* - to find out more about the entire Online Safety Act, visit the government site set up

to explain the intent, content and aims of the 2023 legislation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>