

UK ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Implementation Timeline



Regulator Ofcom will be publishing detailed Codes of Practice & Guidelines in 3 phases. Here are the key dates you need to know.

Phase 1: Illegal Content / Harms

Applicable to: All user-to-user and search services active in UK

- Draft guidance & codes published
- Final codes of practice issued

9 Nov 2023
Autumn 2024

Phase 2: Child Safety & Pornography

Applicable to: Child Safety - All online services 'likely to be accessed by children'
Pornography - All user-to-user and search services active in UK

- Draft guidance on age assurance
- Draft codes of practice relating to protection of children
- Final guidance on protection of children issued
- Begin investigations & sanctions for non-compliance with child protection duties

Dec 2023
Spring 2024
Spring 2025
Spring 2025

Phase 3: Transparency, User Empowerment and other duties for Category 1&2 services

Applicable to: User-to-user services designated Category 1 or 2.
Search services or combined services designated Category 2

- Call for evidence
- Draft transparency guidance
- Advice submitted to Government on thresholds for Categories 1 & 2
- Government to make secondary legislation on categorisation
- Register of categorised services issued
- Draft proposals on additional duties for categorised services
- Transparency notices issued
- Final codes & guidance for categorised services issued

Early 2024
Mid 2024
Early 2024
Mid 2024
End 2024
Early 2025
Mid 2025
End 2025