Telefónica

API OVERVIEW

Overview, use cases on the Age Verification API
(Part of KYC porfolio)

Telefónica Open Gateway

19 Aug, 2025

Table of Contents

Telefónica

Description, Features and Categorization

01

"When age defines access, the Age Verification API is the signal - allowing organizations to confirm in real time if a mobile user meets a chosen age threshold, using operator-verified data and preserving user privacy."

This API answers one question—"Is this subscriber over the required age?"—returning a simple yes/no for configurable thresholds tied to a phone number. By leveraging operator-verified subscriber records, it validates age without exposing date of birth or identity details, preserving consent and privacy. Ideal for onboarding and compliance across online safety, gambling, alcohol delivery, age-restricted media and commerce, it reduces friction, blocks underage access, and cuts fake accounts—privately and in real time.

Telefónica

Features and Categorization

CAMARA	✓
COUNTRIES	🇬🇧
SECTORS	ECOMERCE & RETAIL MEDIA, ENTERTAINTMEN & XR
SERVICES	AUTHENTICATION AND FRAUD PREVENTION

Telefónica

Characteristics of Age Verification API

02

Overview

Characteristics of Age Verification API

Low user friction

Eliminates the need for users to submit ID photos or undergo biometric checks during the first interaction, by leveraging operator-verified KYC data to confirm age instantly.

Trust and traceability

Leverages KYC data already verified by the mobile operator—information collected and validated during the customer's SIM registration or account setup. This ensures the age confirmation is based on an authoritative, legally compliant source rather than self-reported details.

Real-time and scalable

Designed to handle large-scale onboarding, continuous access control, and high-volume transaction environments without the delays or drop-off rates often seen in document- or image-based age verification.

Telefónica

Overview

Characteristics of Age Verification API

Configurable thresholds

Allows setting adult age limits (e.g., 18+, 21+) based on business, industry, or legal needs.

Checks vary by market and may include information on user-defined content restrictions to refine results and reduce false positives.

Standardized Access Across Operators

Built on the CAMARA standard and available through GSMA Open Gateway, the API offers a consistent, operator-agnostic interface across markets.

Partners can integrate once and use globally, without negotiating custom solutions per telco.

Privacy by design

Implements a minimal-data approach by returning only a binary result—whether the subscriber meets or exceeds the configured age threshold (e.g., 18). No date of birth, identity documents, or other personal details are transmitted, reducing the exposure of sensitive information.

Telefónica

Use cases

03

Overview / Use Cases

Protecting Minors on Social Platforms

Social networks and content-sharing platforms face intense pressure to prevent underage users from accessing or posting content beyond their age appropriateness. Many such platforms historically relied on self-reported birthdays, which led to large numbers of children circumventing age rules . Now regulators (and parents) demand robust age checks, especially after incidents of children accessing harmful material or interacting with adults online. Platforms need a way to verify user ages at account creation and during sensitive actions (like viewing mature content), without driving away users with clunky processes.

OTHER RELATED APIs		
Number Verification Tenure	SECTOR	MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & XR
	SERVICE	AUTHENTICATION AND FRAUD PREVENTION

DEVELOPER / BUSINESS NEED ADDRESSED

- **Lift conversion** by replacing document/selfie checks with a silent telco-backed check;
- Build parent and advertiser confidence with a telco-verified age assertion—privacy-first (no DoB, photos, or IDs shared).
- Cut cost and drop-off with adaptive journeys—trigger step-up (ID/selfie) only on fails or high-risk signals; standardize across regions.

Overview / Use Cases

Online Entertainment & Adult Content Access (18+ Gate)

Websites offering adult-oriented content or services are under strict mandates in various jurisdictions to block underage access. For instance, in the UK from 2025, these sites must verify that users are 18+ before granting access . Similarly, other countries requires age verification systems for adult content as part of youth media protection laws . Traditionally, adult sites either used credit card checks (assuming cardholders are adults) or third-party age verification services that required users to upload an ID or purchase a verification token – these methods often suffered low conversion as users balked at the process. There is a need for a more user-friendly yet reliable age gate for such sensitive content.

OTHER RELATED APIs		DEVELOPER / BUSINESS NEED ADDRESSED
Number Verification Tenure	**SECTOR** MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & XR	• Offer a reliable signal that partners can combine with their own controls to improve confidence in age-sensitive interactions.
	SERVICE AUTHENTICATION AND FRAUD PREVENTION	• Privacy-first: age proof with selective disclosure—no date of birth, photos, or IDs shared.
		• Enable adaptive journeys: cache short-lived age tokens; step-up (ID/selfie) only on fails/unknowns.
		• Improve conversion vs. document/selfie flows; measurable uplift on pass-through/time-to-access.

Telefónica

Overview / Use Cases

Online Gambling and Gaming Platforms

Online gambling (casinos, sports betting, lotteries) and certain gaming platforms (especially those with monetary transactions or violent content) are legally required to verify that users meet minimum age requirements (often 18, or 21 in some jurisdictions). Gambling operators are subject to strict KYC (Know Your Customer) and AML rules, where age verification is an early step. For example, the UK Gambling Commission mandates age verification before a customer can even play free-to-play demos . Failure to keep underage players out can result in losing licenses. Traditional approach in regulated markets is to verify age via databases (credit records) or ID checks within 72 hours, but rules are now requiring upfront verification . Speed is a factor – gambling customers want to start playing quickly, so any delay can cost operators business.

OTHER RELATED APIs			DEVELOPER / BUSINESS NEED ADDRESSED
Number Verification Tenure	**SECTOR**	MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & XR	• **Accelerate onboardin**g: instant decision reduces drop-off
	SERVICE	AUTHENTICATION AND FRAUD PREVENTION	• **Reduce KYC costs**: deflect most users from document checks; reserve ID for cash-out/exceptions. • **Multi-market config**: thresholds per jurisdiction/product (18/21), multi-MNO coverage via CAMARA.

Overview / Use Cases

E-commerce (Age-Restricted Goods) and Retail

E-commerce retailers that sell age-restricted products (alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, knives, certain pharmaceuticals, etc.) must verify the buyer's age to comply with laws. Brick-and-mortar stores check ID at purchase; online sellers need an equivalent. Common approaches include age verification during checkout or on delivery (e.g. the delivery courier checks ID). Both have drawbacks: online verification can cause cart abandonment if too difficult, and delivery checks can fail (package not released, etc.). Retailers, including supermarkets offering online sales, have been exploring digital solutions to allow a smooth purchase without sending underage buyers products illegally.

OTHER RELATED APIs		DEVELOPER / BUSINESS NEED ADDRESSED
Number Verification Tenure	**SECTOR** ECOMERCE & RETAIL	• **Cut delivery failures/returns**: pre-verify age and pass status to carriers (adult-signature only when required).
	SERVICE AUTHENTICATION AND FRAUD PREVENTION	• **Privacy by design:** selective disclosure; no storage of date of birth or ID documents. • **Easy integration:** web/app SDKs & APIs; POS/kiosk flows for in-store, **lockers, or vending;** webhooks for 3PL.

Telefónica

Overview / Use Cases

Age-Gated Advertising & Brand Safety

In regulated-category advertising (alcohol, betting, vaping, 18+ content), mixed-audience environments across web, apps, CTV and consoles collide with unreliable self-declared ages, the deprecation of cookies/MAIDs, shared devices and profiles, and bidstreams that avoid verified age signals for privacy reasons, while tightening national codes (18+/21+) raise the bar— together driving under-age exposures, make-goods and wasted spend, regulatory and brand-safety risk, heavy and conversion-killing controls (ID/selfie), fragmented compliance by market, audit burdens, higher operational costs, and lost ROAS even when page or program context appears "adult."

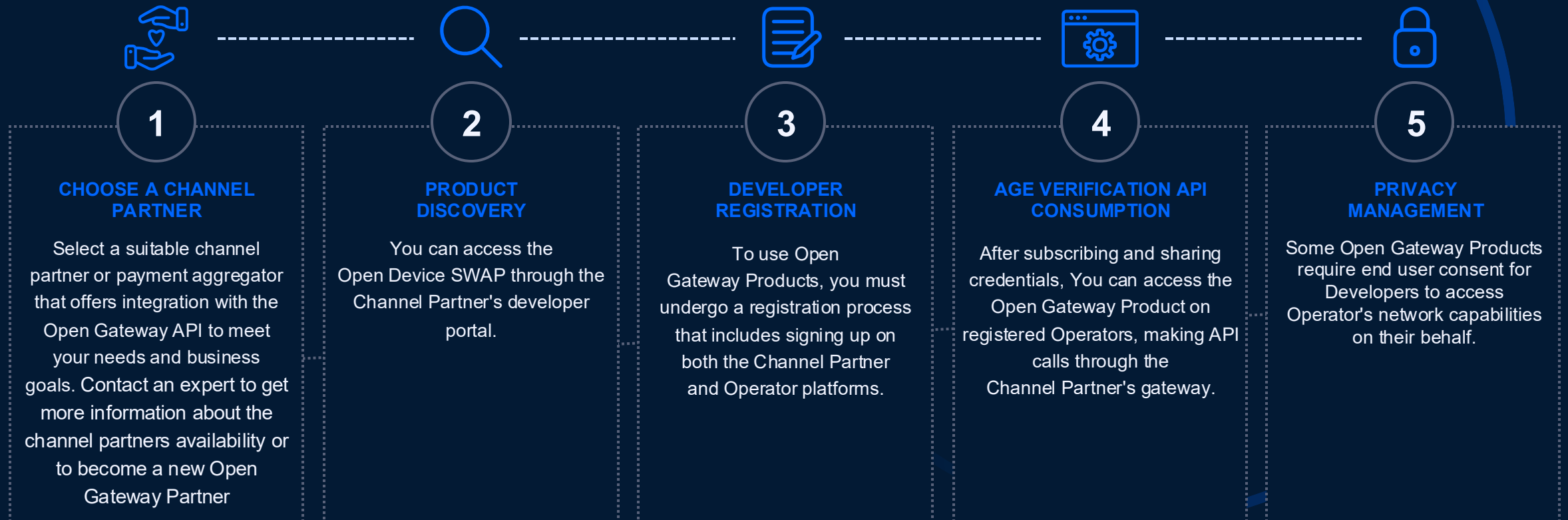| OTHER RELATED APIs			DEVELOPER / BUSINESS NEED ADDRESSED
Number Verification Tenure	**SECTOR**	MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & XR	• Prevent underage audiences from being exposed to regulated-category ads (e.g., gambling, alcohol, vaping) across mixed-audience platforms.
	SERVICE	AUTHENTICATION AND FRAUD PREVENTION	• Replace deprecated identifiers (cookies, device IDs) with privacy-preserving, operator-verified age signals. • Maintain ad campaign reach and conversion while introducing minimal friction for the user.

Telefónica

Start using Age Verification API!

04

Getting Started with Age Verification API

Harness the power of Open Gateway and seamlessly integrate our API services into your app

Follow these initial steps for seamless API services to Developers within Channel Partners' environments, including Operators API Services integration for a cohesive product experience and efficient collaboration among stakeholders.

1
CHOOSE A CHANNEL PARTNER

Select a suitable channel partner or payment aggregator that offers integration with the Open Gateway API to meet your needs and business goals. Contact an expert to get more information about the channel partners availability or to become a new Open Gateway Partner

2
PRODUCT DISCOVERY

You can access the Open Device SWAP through the Channel Partner's developer portal.

3
DEVELOPER REGISTRATION

To use Open Gateway Products, you must undergo a registration process that includes signing up on both the Channel Partner and Operator platforms.

4
AGE VERIFICATION API CONSUMPTION

After subscribing and sharing credentials, You can access the Open Gateway Product on registered Operators, making API calls through the Channel Partner's gateway.

5
PRIVACY MANAGEMENT

Some Open Gateway Products require end user consent for Developers to access Operator's network capabilities on their behalf.

Telefónica

Documentation

05

Official Age Verification API Documentation

Over CAMARA

CAMARA is an open-source project within Linux Foundation to define, develop and test the APIs. CAMARA works in close collaboration with the GSMA Operator Platform Group to align API requirements and publish API definitions and APIs. Harmonization of APIs is achieved through fast and agile created working code with developer-friendly documentation. API definitions and reference implementations are free to use (Apache2.0 license).

Camara is supported by:

Meetings

- Regular Virtual Meetings
- Bi-weekly on Tuesdays
- 10:00 to 11:00 CET

Contributor ship & Mailing List

✓ Subscribe

CCB (Subproject)

✓ CAMARA KYC Age Verification

Telefónica

FAQs

06

Age Verification API / FAQs

What is the CAMARA KYC Age Verification API?

It's an API that instantly confirms whether a user meets a required minimum age threshold (e.g., 13+, 16+, 18+, or 21+) using mobile network operator–verified data, without exposing the date of birth or other personal details.

Which industries may use it?

Social media, online gaming, gambling and betting, e-commerce of age-restricted goods, adult content streaming, and regulated digital advertising.

What problem does it solve?

It prevents underage access to restricted services, content, or products, helping companies comply with national and international regulations while reducing legal risks, penalties, and reputational damage.

How does it work technically?

During sign-up, checkout, or content access, the platform requests the user's mobile number. The API queries the mobile operator to verify if the subscriber meets the required age threshold and returns a yes/no result—without sharing additional personal data.

How is it better than document or selfie checks?

It's instant, low-friction, and privacy-friendly, avoiding the need for users to upload documents or take photos, and reducing drop-off rates during registration or purchase.

Does it comply with GDPR and other privacy laws?

Yes. The API returns only a binary confirmation (eligible/not eligible) and does not share personal identifiers, meeting the GDPR principles of data minimization and necessity.

Telefónica

Age Verification API / FAQs

What's the impact on user conversion?

It reduces friction compared to traditional methods, keeping high conversion rates and preventing legitimate users from abandoning due to long or intrusive verification flows.

Can it integrate with other identity controls?

Yes. It can serve as a pre-filter to block minors before a full KYC process, or as a step-up layer in more comprehensive identity verification flows.

How does it differ from other market solutions?

It's based on mobile operator data, which is highly reliable and difficult to falsify—unlike self-declared age, cookies, or some third-party data providers that may be outdated.

Does it work for both mobile and desktop users?

Yes. As long as the user's account or session is linked to a mobile number, the verification can be triggered regardless of the device used.

Can the Age Verification API check multiple age thresholds?

The API can be configured for different adult age limits (e.g., 18+, 21+) depending on the regulatory requirement, service type, or content category.

Age thresholds always apply to the confirmation of legal adulthood — the API cannot be configured for underage thresholds. Any request below the legal age limit will return a 400 OUT_OF_RANGE error due to regulatory restrictions.

Additionally, the API has access to internal indicators that allow it to help determine whether certain content categories should be restricted, further supporting compliance and content suitability checks.

What makes it scalable across countries and operators?

It's built on CAMARA/Open Gateway standards, enabling multi-MNO coverage with one integration and consistent policy controls.

Telefónica

Other relevant information

07

Discover more

Join our Developer Hub

Join the **Telefónica Open Gateway Developer Hub** to test our APIs, develop use cases with the power of the network and improve user experiences.

Enroll our Partner Program

If you are interested in the potential of Telefónica Open Gateway and you are willing to collaborate with us, you can **enroll our exclusive Partner Program**.

Subscribe our newsletter

Find out all about the latest of Telefónica Open Gateway in our **newsletter**.

Contact our experts

If you have any questions about the initiative, don't hesitate to **contact our experts**.

Telefónica