

Electronic identification & authentication

John Carr

Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety

Luxembourg, September 2008



Barnardo's



**The
Children's
Society**

NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.





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- UK law and many other countries' laws say that companies selling age restricted goods and services must *only* do so if they have in place systems which enable them to ensure that they are complying with the law. Those systems must be capable of being tested and be shown to be effective

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- Knives 18 Years
- Liqueur Chocolates 16 Years
- Cigarettes & Tobacco - including cigarette papers 18 Years
- Lottery Tickets 16 Years
- Petrol 16 Years
- Scratch Cards 16 Years
- Party Poppers & Caps 16 Years
- Air Guns & Pellets 18 Years
- Alcohol 18 Years
- Solvents 18 Years
- Tattooing 18 Years
- Butane Gas Cigarette Lighter Refills 18 Years
- Fireworks 18 Years
- Betting 18 Years
- Video Games & Movies 18 Years or (pornography and violence)
- Video Games & Movies 15 Years or
- Video Games & Movies 12 Years



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- Other than online gambling companies, I know of no company selling age restricted goods and services online that is complying with the law.



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- In the real world, everyone is age verified every single time they purchase an age restricted product or service on the High Street. The penalties for the retailer for getting it wrong are severe.
- Society is not willing to say that different rules apply in the virtual world
- But we haven't yet made it stick, except in the UK in the case of online gambling

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PUBLICATION: THE PEOPLE
DATE: 26 AUGUST 2007

WEBER SHANDWICK
WORLDWIDE

THE PEOPLE probes scandal

Card that lets kids of 14 buy alcohol, knives and porn

KIDS as young as 14 can buy booze, knives and porn on the internet thanks to an alarming loophole in Britain's credit card system.

Thousands of pre-paid credit cards are sold in the UK, many of which can be used to buy alcohol, knives and porn. The cards are sold by a company called 12550 direct, which is a subsidiary of the 12550 group. The cards are sold to children as young as 14, and can be used to buy alcohol, knives and porn. The cards are sold by a company called 12550 direct, which is a subsidiary of the 12550 group. The cards are sold to children as young as 14, and can be used to buy alcohol, knives and porn.

DO YOU KNOW A SCANDAL?

SHOCKING

Autism 2nd, 14, and a credit card he bought with no checks

EXCLUSIVE

by ANDREW GARDNER

Autism 2nd, 14, and a credit card he bought with no checks. The man who bought the card with his 14-year-old son, who is autistic, has been charged with supplying a child with alcohol, knives and porn. The man is charged with supplying a child with alcohol, knives and porn. The man is charged with supplying a child with alcohol, knives and porn.

POWERS: The youth that was bought with his card

12550 direct

LETAL: Knife stolen by one purchased with under-age card

DISGRACE: Kids can buy into porn law on net with card

CALL US NOW ON 020 7293 3201 OR EMAIL: people@people.co.uk

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- **Girl, 13, buys two-foot-long machete on net**
- By Stephen Hayward, sundaymirror.co.uk 20/04/2008
- **ONLINE SHOPS SCANDAL CONSUMER INVESTIGATION**
- A 13-year-old girl has managed to buy a terrifying two-foot-long machete on the internet.
- Savina Shah ordered the £32 weapon - plus two razor-sharp knives, bottles of booze and tins of spray paint - from online retailers last week.
- She was able to buy all the items - with no checks on her age - with a pre-payment credit card issued in her name. The astonishing ease with which children can get age-restricted products has been exposed by trading standards officers. Investigators targeted websites over three days using Savina to conduct the purchases. It is illegal for under-18s to buy knives and it's a criminal offence to sell spray paints - commonly used by "taggers" to vandalise property - to someone under 16.
- Savina also bought bottles of spirits, despite Government promises to crack down on retailers selling booze to under-18s.
- Her father Ash Shah, a trading standards officer with Brent and Harrow Council in North-West London, said: "It's shocking to see how easy it is. On many websites you only have to click on a box saying you are over 18 - there are no other checks." Mr Shah is now contacting the retailers involved.
- They could be prosecuted and fined up to £5,000 for each offence. He added: "Retailers need to be aware that if they're not doing face-to-face transactions on age-restricted goods, they need to make better checks. "In view of the products children are able to buy, we're concerned about how easy it is to obtain a pre-payment credit card. "It's vital that parents are made aware of the dangers when they get a pre-payment credit card for their children." The investigation comes amid growing concern about the availability of cheap alcohol to youngsters and a wave of teenage stabbings across Britain.

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Online Purchasing of Goods and Services (Age Verification) Bill 1

A B I L L

TO

Make it a requirement for the providers of goods and services and the providers of specified facilities enabling the purchase of such goods and services to take reasonable steps, in certain circumstances, to establish the age of customers making such purchases remotely; and for connected purposes.

B E I T ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Provision of age-restricted goods and services

- (1) A company, organization or individual which is engaged in the sale or provision by means of any electronic communications networks of such age-restricted goods and services as shall be prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State shall take all reasonable steps to determine that the person purchasing or otherwise obtaining access to such goods and services meets the specifications of the relevant age restriction. 5
- (2) In prescribing the list of goods and services which are the subject of this Act the Secretary of State shall have regard to, but shall not be limited to, any goods and services for which an age restriction is prescribed by law and any age restrictions which are prescribed by any statutory body. 10
- (3) The Secretary of State shall publish, at least once in each calendar year, advice or guidance on how companies, organizations or individuals might discharge their obligations under subsection (1). 15
- (4) In this section "electronic communications networks" has the meaning given by section 32 of the Communications Act 2003 (c. 21) (meaning of electronic communications networks and services). 20

2 Penalties

Any company, organization or individual which fails to comply with the provisions of section 1 commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum. 20

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[illegible]



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- Definitely are issues and difficulties.
- Different countries have widely differing systems for acquiring and maintaining personal data, about everyone but above all about children
- Creating an online database of children carries with it several risks
- But the technology exists to allow verification systems to work without having to do that
- The banks and the retail industry could solve this problem and, in so doing, help create a new internet environment that promises to be much safer for children



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- If a widespread system of age verification were in place it would help generate a wide range of new possibilities for creating targeted, child friendly and child appropriate online services
- Could also contribute towards reducing the number of bad guys who try to misrepresent themselves online or who infiltrate areas meant principally for young people
- Crucially, this fits in with wider trends concerned with establishing greater certainty about who we are dealing with when we go online, who we accept messages from and so on
- The abuse of anonymity could yet completely finish the internet as we know it

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- The End
- Thank You