

Decree on Safe Digital Environments for Children and Adolescents

Mexico City, October 15, 2026

On October 14, 2026, the [Decree](#) establishing measures to ensure safe digital environments for children and adolescents was published in the Federal Official Gazette.

During the morning press conference, the Federal Executive stated that compliance with the Decree will be voluntary for now, and that it will first assess compliance before developing specific statutory penalties.

The main purpose of the Decree is to prevent digital platforms from allowing access to, or recommending, a catalog of content prohibited for children and adolescents. The Decree establishes that prohibited content includes material related to harassment, sexual violence, hate speech, illegal conduct, pornography, suicide, self-harm, bullying, and eating disorders, among others.

The Decree defines digital platforms as digital intermediaries that enable the interaction, communication, creation, dissemination, or sharing of content among users, for the purpose of, among other things, offering, providing, marketing goods, services, applications, products, or content; these include social media, video games, app stores, and others.

Verbally in the morning press conference, instant messaging platforms were mentioned as excluded, but the text did not clarify this.

Platform Obligations

1. Implement “reliable and secure” age verification mechanisms, without mentioning specific methods, although it is established that they must not be limited to self-declaration.

In practice, there are various methods for estimating or verifying users’ ages, none of which fully guarantees that the declared or apparent age or identity actually corresponds

to the user. Furthermore, this requirement could entail the need to verify the age of all platform users in order to identify children and adolescents.

2. Establish, publish, and apply criteria for identifying and removing prohibited accounts or content, as well as for classifying and moderating content based on users' ages, to prevent children and adolescents from accessing such content.

In practice, each type of content requires careful evaluation. Some can be identified and removed using technology such as AI, but other material, due to contextual elements, requires human review. While some is easily and evidently classified as prohibited or unlawful, other content is more complex and usually requires a ruling by an authority. Platforms usually carry out moderation actions on several billion items every day. The Decree does not address these circumstances, nor does it clarify compliance options.

3. Accounts or content that promote prohibited conduct must be removed immediately, with no specific timeframe established for doing so.
4. Accessible mechanisms are required for users to report inappropriate content, as well as tools for parents or guardians to monitor children's and adolescents' accounts.
5. New accounts must be activated with the strictest default privacy and security settings available.
6. Platforms must periodically assess the risks posed by their design, recommendation algorithms, and features, and generate reports to be shared with the competent authorities to support mental health policies.

The Decree also requires platforms to designate a point of contact who must be available at all times and able to take immediate action, to retain digital evidence of removed accounts or content for at least 90 business days, and to immediately alert the authorities when they detect content that threatens the life, dignity, safety, or privacy of children and adolescents.

Compliance Deadline

Despite the Decree's entry into force, platforms have 30 calendar days to document and report on the actions implemented to comply with the Decree.

The Decree does not impose penalties for noncompliance. Likewise, the requirements it establishes lack a specific legal basis that would grant regulatory authority to impose obligations related to digital services and online content.

Next Steps

The Decree instructs the Legal Counsel (*Consejería Jurídica*) to the Federal Executive to establish a working group with the relevant agencies to draft additional regulatory proposals on this matter; therefore, it is foreseeable that these obligations will be further detailed or expanded in secondary regulations.

Given the broad scope of the definition of “digital platform” and the ambiguity of other terms used in the Decree, we recommend that companies in the sector assess whether their operations fall within its scope and, if so, begin documenting their processes for age verification, content moderation, privacy by default, and cooperation with authorities, in light of the 30-calendar-day deadline.

We may assist your organization in determining the Decree’s applicability, conducting a legal and constitutional analysis of risks and impacts, assessing compliance with the required policies (age verification, content moderation, and privacy by default), preparing the compliance report within the 30-calendar-day deadline, and responding to requests from the authorities.

For further information, please contact Xavier Careaga (TMT & AI Counsel - xcareaga@galicia.com.mx).

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