

GAMES CONSOLES VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT

Explanatory Note

on updates made from version 3.9.4 to version 4.0

The Games Console manufacturers periodically revise their Voluntary Agreement (GCVA) in order to keep it up-to-date with the latest technological and regulatory developments as well as respond to Commission and stakeholder feedback, where appropriate.

As part of their commitments under the GCVA, the Signatories performed their 3rd review of the VA in 2020, in view of the launch of new generation consoles by 2 manufacturers. Version 3.9.4 was presented at the Consultation Forum meeting in December 2020. Subsequently, the GCVA was further updated in response to feedback from various stakeholders. The table below provides a brief overview of the main changes made in version 4.0.

Area	Section	Updates
Energy Efficiency	2.4, D	Clarification that the default low power modes for consoles are “regulatory standby mode(s)”, as defined by EU Regulation (EU) No 1275/2008 as amended by EU Regulation (EU) No 801/2013
	3.1.1	Removal of bullet that was explanatory background text rather than an Auto-Power Down (APD) parameter.
	3.1.1	Addition of an explanatory footnote on APD settings for networked standby mode.
	3.1.2.1	Reduction of the Tier 6 power cap for the UHD(4K) Media Playback mode in 8K definition consoles.
	3.1.4	Addition of text that consoles consuming less than 20W in Active Gaming mode shall be in scope of the SRI energy efficiency information requirements from 1 January 2022.
Resource Efficiency	3.2.1	Clarification on period of availability of hard disk drives and external power supplies to professional repairers and end-users.
	3.2.1	Clarification on period of availability of other specified key components to authorised repairers.
	3.2.1	Clarification of the term “authorised” repairer.
	3.2.1	Addition of effective date and reworded the halogenated flame retardants restriction as a percentage.
	Annex A-2	Update on the verification table to reflect changes made on the text throughout the main document.
		Clarification verification process for provision of information on halogenated flame retardants.
		Addition of text on provision of information verification for power consumption of consoles consuming less than 20W on navigation, media play, and gaming modes, regulatory standby, and additional other end-user-enabled low power condition.
Other	Throughout	Minor editorial clarifications and text alignment.
	3.3	Addition of text about provision of information on GCVA website regarding power consumption of navigation, media playback, active gaming, regulatory standby modes and other user-enabled low power condition.
	4.3	Revision of text regarding where Steering Committee meetings should be held

	Annex C	Addition of requirement to provide annual sales figures.
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