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GAMES CONSOLES VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT (GCVA)

7TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

20 June 2025, 17:00-17:40 CEST
Online meeting



PARTICIPANTS

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| DESNZ | 1. Stephen Cummins |
| Independent Inspector
(Intertek) | 2. Jane Lee
3. Steve Fernandes |
| Microsoft Corporation | 4. Ted Eckert |
| Nintendo of Europe GmbH | 5. Calum Robertson
6. Eiichiro Morisaki
7. Emil Schweiger
8. Kenichiro Nishio |
| Sony Interactive
Entertainment (SIE) | 9. Joshua Aslan |
| Energy Saving Trust
VA Administrator
(SEC Newgate EU) | 10. Stew Horne
11. Ilaria Graceffa |

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of minutes of previous Steering Committee meeting
3. Review of actions of previous Steering Committee meeting
4. Annual Compliance Report (ACR) presentation
5. Update from the Signatories
6. Update from the UK
7. AOB and date of next Steering Committee meeting
8. End of meeting

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and introductions

Ilaria Graceffa (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) opened the meeting at 17:00 CEST, she welcomed participants, presented the agenda, and held a brief round of introductions. No AOBs were added.

2. Approval of minutes of previous Steering Committee meeting (25 March 2025)

Ilaria Graceffa (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) confirmed that the minutes were circulated, approved, and uploaded on the Games Consoles Voluntary Agreement (GCVA) [website](#).

3. Review of action of previous Steering Committee meeting

Ilaria Graceffa (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) noted that the action agreed at the 6th UK Steering Committee meeting had been completed.

4. Annual Compliance Report (ACR) presentation

Steve Fernandes (Intertek, Independent Inspector) presented the 2024 Annual Compliance Report (ACR). Both the 2024 ACR and her presentation can be found on the GCVA website.

- The Independent Inspector determined that the Signatories continue to be compliant with all SRI requirements.
- The UK VA versions applicable to reporting period 1 January - 31 December 2024 are versions 1.1 and 2.0, the latter being adopted in June 2024. The Signatories declared compliance according to version 2.0 in the PCRs.
- Seven games consoles fall within the scope of the UK VA for the 2024 reporting period: Xbox Series X (Model: 1882), Xbox Series S (Model: 1883), Nintendo Switch (Model: HAC-001(-01)), Nintendo Switch - OLED Model (Model: HEG-001), PlayStation®5 Digital Edition (Model: CFI-2016), PlayStation®5 (Model: CFI-2016), PlayStation®5 Pro (Model: CFI-7021).
- The investigation reported in the most recent Annual Compliance Report covers consoles with PCRs submitted in February 2025 for the reporting period January through December 2024. The verification testing took place during Summer 2024.
- Only the SIE PlayStation 5 CFI-1216A was selected for testing; the majority of consoles had been previously tested. Testing in preceding years had focused on retests to verify results from manufacturer supplied samples. The PlayStation CFI-

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1216A had not been tested during this period so was selected to ensure all models on the market had undergone recent verification testing.

- Testing and verification was undertaken by the Consumer Electronics division of Intertek Performance Electrical & Network Assurance test facility in Milton Keynes, UK.
- Energy consumption test results and the non-energy requirements & energy efficiency information were compared to the specifications in version 1.1 of the VA.
- The console tested complied with the requirements.

Steve Fernandes (Intertek, Independent Inspector) concluded the presentation informing participants that, following the 2024 investigation, Intertek did not have any recommendations.

Stephen Cummins (DESNZ) asked about the most challenging areas in terms of compliance with the requirements set under the GCVA. He also asked how easy it would be for other players in the market to join the VA. Ted Eckert (Microsoft) replied that the GCVA applies to the products that fall under the definition of 'games consoles', as set thereto. The scope of the GCVA was done with a view to include products that do not fall under other Ecodesign Regulations or VAs. All the other energy using products that cannot be considered as 'games consoles' will fall under the scope of other Ecodesign Regulations, such as the recently launched Asus handheld devices, running on Windows. This device would be a gaming computer under Lot 3.

Emil Schweiger (Nintendo) added that the requirements under the GCVA are divided in two categories:

- **Energy efficiency:** aimed at reducing power consumption of products in the market. With regard to these requirements, the main challenge is to keep low levels of power consumption - as requested by regulators and NGOs - while also providing high and improved performance for the users. Ted Eckert (Microsoft) and Joshua Aslan (Sony), confirmed that Xbox and PlayStation 5 Pro consoles are facing the same challenges.
- **On resource efficiency,** Signatories are trying to comply with increasing requests to provide more spare parts, in light of circular economy objectives. However, there are limits to this, as some consoles parts cannot be provided as they are protected by the system to ensure that the copyright, etc. protection is maintained. . This represents one of the main challenges to ensure compliance with resource efficiency requirements.

Ted Eckert (Microsoft) added that other challenges are presented by the requirements set by Ecodesign regulations, such as **safety requirements**. For example, halogenated flame retardants (HFRs) have been partly removed from games console enclosures. As the Signatories will soon start working on the GCVA revision, they will look at whether it is possible to further reduce HFRs, to make plastic parts even more recyclable. However, this should not lower safety standards of games consoles. Repairability is also challenging, as if not done properly, can lead to additional problems and interference with other devices.

Stew Horne (EST) asked to what extent the Nintendo Switch 2, recently put into the market, can be already considered compliant with the GCVA requirements. Emil Schweiger (Nintendo) confirmed that the Nintendo Switch 2 is in scope of the GCVA, and Nintendo believes it will be found compliant with the applicable requirements. As such, the PCRs will be submitted in February 2026, to be reviewed for the next Annual Compliance Report prepared by Intertek. All the relevant information related to power consumption of Nintendo Switch 2 can be found on the Nintendo website, and soon on the efficientgaming website.

5. Presentation from Signatories

Signatories presented a timeline for the next years, with a view to launch a review cycle for the UK VA in 2026.

6. Update from the UK

There were no major updates from the UK since the last SC meeting in March. Stephen Cummins (DESNZ) said that the main developments in the UK focused on the discussions between the EU and the UK, in particular on energy cooperation. The discussion has not extended to ecodesign aspects. However, there is great possibility for future cooperation between the EU and UK. He also encouraged Signatories to promote the GCVA on the UK government channels, as already discussed during the previous UK SC meeting in March.

Emil Schweiger (Nintendo) asked Mr Cummins whether other industries have shown an interest to develop a Voluntary Agreement in the UK. Mr Cummins said that at the moment the main focus is on regulations both at EU and UK level. However, there may be some sectors that would benefit from a voluntary approach. However, DESNZ has not been approached by any industry in recent times about this topic. He also said that this is an interesting point, and perhaps the GCVA could be used as a case study to show the positive results of voluntary approaches for certain sectors.

7. AOB and date of next Steering Committee meeting

Ilaria Graceffa (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) indicated the date of the next UK Steering Committee meeting will be communicated in the due time.

The draft minutes of the current meeting will be shared, and participants will have two weeks for comments, as indicated in the VA. The final version of the minutes will be published on the GCVA website.

8. End of meeting

Ilaria Graceffa (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) thanked participants and closed the meeting at 17:40 CEST.

Actions

- VA Administrator to prepare and distribute the minutes of the current meeting.
- VA Administrator and Signatories to agree on the date for the next UK SC meeting.