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NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION ACT, 2007
NIGERIA BIOMETRICS STANDARDS REGULATIONS, 2017



ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

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S. I. No. 13 of 2017

NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION ACT, 2007

NIGERIA BIOMETRICS STANDARDS REGULATIONS, 2017

[26th Day of October, 2017]

Commence-
ment.

In exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 31 of the National Identity Management Commission Act 2007 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the National Identity Management Commission makes the following Regulations—

PART I OBJECTIVE AND APPLICATION

1. The objectives of these Regulations are to—

Objectives.

(a) define the specifics of the National Biometric Standards requirements, formats that enable interoperability, processes and hardware specifications for biometric data capture ;

(b) enable the standardization of data collection, transmission and storage processes to cover the basic functions of enrolment, verification and identification, including basic standards that allow for only approved or licensed agencies, organizations and entities to manage and ensure interoperability of their system with the integrated national system ;

(c) ensure consistent, good quality biometric data and reliable interoperability across biometric capture devices, capture software and unique NIN service delivery ;

(d) enable the detection and elimination of duplicate identities and ensure accurate authentication ; and

(e) identify applicable biometric standards and recommend best practices to the Commission.

2. These Regulations shall apply to—

Application
of these
Regulations

(a) all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), statutory bodies, executive bodies, Institutions, corporate bodies and owners of biometric capture equipment or devices (in these Regulations referred to as “Operators”) whose licenses, statutory functions or business functions require biometric capture and authentication for identity management purposes ;

(b) any person or organization licensed, involved in designing, testing, or implementing the NIN system, NIN compatible systems, or NIN enrolment for the Federal Government, State Government, Local Governments and the Federal Capital Territory and commercial organizations ;

(c) users of the NIN system ; and

(d) any other category of persons or organization as may be determined by the Commission from time to time.

PART II—NIGERIA BIOMETRIC STANDARDS

Biometric Standards.

3. Any Operator to which these Regulations apply shall comply with the Biometric Standards stipulated in the Schedule to these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standards as may be issued by the Commission from time to time.

Non-Compliance.

4. Without prejudice to any other enforcement measures prescribed under the Act or any relevant Regulations made pursuant to the Act, the following shall constitute non-compliance with these Regulations—

(a) any act of interference with the powers of the Commission to inspect biometric databases of an operator for compliance with these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standards issued by the Commission ;

(b) a breach of any of the provisions of these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standards issued by the Commission ;

(c) failure to meet such equipment or data capturing machine standards as prescribed under these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standards issued by the Commission ; and

(d) any other act as may be prescribed by the Commission .

PART III—ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Enforcement and Compliance.

5.—(1) The Commission shall, in exercise of its powers to enforce these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standards, have powers to—

(a) inspect the level of compliance with the recommended Biometric Standards by operators who carry out any form of biometric and demographic data capture ; and

(b) administer and co-ordinate the adherence to biometric standards by all operators in Nigeria.

(2) In the event of default by an operator, the Commission shall seek a Court Order for the temporary suspension of the operator’s right to capture biometric and demographic data under the following circumstances and procedures—

(a) if upon being notified in writing, the operator refuses to adhere to the provisions of these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standard, for a continuous period of thirty days after the six months specified in sub-regulation (2) (b) of this regulation ; or

(b) if within six months of the commencement of these Regulations, the operator has not commenced standardization of its biometrics capturing process and equipment to the satisfaction of the Commission.

(3) The Commission shall give prior notice to the operator specifying the details of the default referred to in sub-regulation (2) of this regulation and requiring that remedial steps be taken within thirty days of such notice.

(4) The Commission may enter into and—

(a) inspect the level of compliance with these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standards issued by the Commission during the issuance or renewal of identification documents ; and

(b) confiscate records in circumstances where an operator fails to comply or has shown continuous disregard to the standards for biometric capture, provided that the Commission shall have obtained an order made in that regard from the Court.

(5) The Commission may seize and detain any equipment or biometric and demographic capturing device in the following circumstances—

(a) where such equipment or biometric device is still in use for capturing and storing biometric or demographic data that contravenes the provisions of these Regulations and the Guidelines on Biometric Standards issued by the Commission ; or

(b) where the equipment or biometric device referred to in this sub-regulation is relevant for the prosecution of a person under the Act or any Regulations made under the Act.

(6) in seizing and detaining any equipment or device referred to in sub-regulation (5) of this regulation, the Commission shall—

(a) obtain a warrant from the Court ; and

(b) provide to the operator or his agent, a written inventory of the seized equipment, facility, book, record, document or other information storage system.

PART IV—MISCELLANEOUS

6. In these Regulations—

Interpretation.

“*Act*” means the National Identity Management Commission Act, 2007 ;

“*court*” means Federal High Court ; and

“*Commission*” means the National Identity Management Commission established under the National Identity Management Commission Act, 2007.

7. These Regulations may be cited as the Nigeria Biometric Standards Regulations, 2017.

Citation.

A. SUMMARY OF FACE BIOMETRIC STANDARDS

<i>Key Decisions</i>	<i>Summary of Decision</i>
Enrolment	
Face Image Capture Tribal Marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Full frontal 24bit colour images. * Well focused eye / nose / mouth / forehead / chin region. * Capture of tribal marks.
Digital/Photographic Requirement	* Auto forms and auto-capture functions for capture device.
Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Neutral face expression. * Mouth closed. * Eyes open.
Illumination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sufficient illumination. * Equally distributed illumination. * No shadows.
Eye Glasses	If glasses are worn, it should be clear and transparent so that pupils and iris are visible.
Accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Head attire is strongly discouraged. * Religious accessories may be permitted (e.g. hijabs). * Medical accessories may be permitted (e.g. eye patches). * All facial features from bottom of the chin to top of the forehead (including both edges of the applicant's face) are clearly shown.
Operational	Operators should be trained to obtain the best possible face image that satisfies requirements.
Quality Check	The quality assessment algorithms should encode parameters like illumination, pose, blur, nose, resolution, inter-eye distance, image height and width and horizontal vertical position of the face.
Storage and Compression	Uncompressed images should be stored in database to preserve the quality.
Authentication	
Image Capture	Same as enrolment
Compression	JPEG 2000 compression ratio should not be less than 11KB.
Number of images	For both manual and authentication, a single full frontal face image is sufficient.

B. SUMMARY OF FINGERPRINT BIOMETRIC STANDARDS

<i>Key Decisions</i>	<i>Summary of Decision</i>
Enrolment	
Image Capture Plain or Rolled	Plain, Live Scan
Number of Fingers, Fingerprint in Rural Areas, and Disabilities	Ten. Absence of fingers and presence of worn out fingerprints. Capture other biometric identifiers.
Device Characteristics	In covering scan resolution pixel depth and dynamic range, the biometric sample captured during enrolment needs to be the best sample possible.
Quality Check	Yes-Specified as best practice
Operational	Operator Assistance, Corrective Measure, and 5 retries.
Storage and Transmission	
Compression	Uncompressed images strongly recommended.
Authentication	
Image Capture	Same as enrolment
Number of Fingers	No minimum or maximum. A single finger will be sufficient to provide the minimum standard of accuracy requirements.
Any Finger option	Any finger.
Retry	A timeout should be implemented in service after five (5) attempts.
Device Characteristics	A standard will be defined for the scanners used in the authentication process.
Compression	JPEG 2000 compression recommended compression ratio to be less than 15:1.
Minutiae Format	ISO/IEC 19794-2:2005, ANSI INCITS 381-2004, and the MINEX (I or II)

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C. SUMMARY OF IRIS BIOMETRIC STANDARDS

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Summary of Decision</i>
Enrolment	
Image	Two eyes, minimum 140 pixel image diameter (170 pixel preferred), image margin 50% left and right, 25% top and bottom of iris diameter.
Device characteristics	Tethered, auto focus, continuous image capture, expose < 33 millisecond,
Operational	Operator controlled strongly preferred No direct natural or artificial light reflection in the eye, indoor.
Segmentation	Non-linear segmentation algorithm.
Quality Assessment	Per IREX11 recommendation.
Compression and Storage	150 19794-6(2010) data format standard JPEG 2000 or PNG lossless compression.
Authentication	Same as enrolment except one or two eyes JPEG 2000.

MADE at Abuja this 26th day of October, 2017.

ENGR. ALIYU A. AZIZ
Director-General/CEO
National Identity Management Commission