

F. No.K-11020/219/2018-UIDAI (Auth-I)

Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Unique Identification Authority of India

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Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir,
Gole Market, New Delhi – 110001

Dated: 17 August 2018

CIRCULAR No. 11 OF 2018

Sub: Implementation of Face Authentication

Reference is invited to this office circular no. K-11020/219/2018-UIDAI (Auth-I) dated 19.06.2018 wherein it was mentioned that all AUAs shall implement Face Authentication in addition to fingerprint/iris/OTP by 31.07.2018. It was also mentioned that device providers shall integrate the Face Authentication in their respective RD services (fingerprint/iris) for all devices on Android, Windows and other Operating System and obtain Delta Certification by 10.07.2018.

2. However, it has been noticed that due to non-readiness of few device providers, the various AUAs were not in a position to implement Face Authentication w.e.f. 1.08.2018. Therefore to avoid any inconvenience to public it has been decided to roll-out the Face Authentication in a phased manner.

3. Further, it has been observed that the authentication ecosystem varies from AUA to AUA. In certain AUAs the authentication is always done in a controlled environment in the presence of their own regular staff, whereas in case of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) the authentication is performed by their distributors / agents, who many a time cater to more than one AUA. Sometimes these distributors / agents in addition to AUA specific activity are also involved in other business activities. In such ecosystems an instance of malfeasance by a distributor / agent might jeopardize the security of Aadhaar number holders. Therefore, it is imperative that the Face Authentication should be implemented in Aadhaar authentication used by TSPs at the earliest.

Y
Sanjay
17/8/2018

4. Therefore in view of the above, in order to further enhance security of overall authentication system and make it more inclusive, it is hereby directed that TSPs shall implement two factor authentication in their systems using face authentication. In case the resident provides the Aadhaar number then the authentication shall be performed using two factors of (i) fingerprint or iris and (ii) face. If the resident provides VID then the authentication may be performed using single factor i.e. fingerprint or iris; however to make the system more inclusive i.e. those residents who are not able to authenticate using fingerprint or iris, the TSPs should also use face authentication along with fingerprint or iris in the case of VID too.

4.1 For integrating face authentication, the fingerprint or iris and the face photo captured as above shall be sent for authentication or e-KYC along with Aadhaar number or VID, as the case may be, as a single request as per RD Service provided by their respective device providers. The TSPs are hereby directed that w.e.f. 15.09.2018, at least 10% of their total monthly authentication transactions shall be performed using face authentication in this manner. Any shortfall in transactions using face authentication would be charged at Rs 0.20 per transaction.

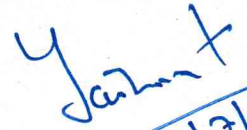
4.2 After successful e-KYC authentication as mentioned above, the TSPs shall also capture live face photo of the resident which will be additional to the photo captured for face authentication. It shall be the responsibility of the TSP that the live photo thus captured shall be verified at their backend system with the photo received in e-KYC before activation of the SIM. The TSPs shall store both the photos in their database for audit purpose. It is hereby clarified that this process shall be followed for the e-KYC performed for all the customers for issuance of SIM cards. In case it is found that the live face photo is not being captured and verified with the photo obtained in the e-KYC, before activation of SIM card, it shall invite financial disincentive as per clause 7.2 of the AUA Agreement. To ensure the compliance, this point shall be included in the AUA audit checklist for the TSPs.

5. It is further mentioned here that several meetings have been held by UIDAI with TSPs where TSPs were advised to impress upon their respective device providers to ensure delta certification for Face Authentication. All the TSPs shall work with their device providers for quick integration of Face Authentication in their RD service.

Y
Jadhav
17/8/2018

6. Regarding AUAs other than TSPs, separate instructions shall be issued regarding implementation of face authentication.

7. In this regard, attention is invited to Regulations 8(1), 14(a), 14 (d) and 14(n) of Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016, whereby, AUAs shall establish and maintain necessary authentication related operations, including own systems, processes, infrastructure, technology, security etc. which may be necessary for performing authentication and also comply with any contractual terms, regulations, policies, procedures, specifications, standards and directions issued by the Authority, for the purposes of using the authentication facilities provided by the Authority. Violation of these Regulations constitutes criminal offence under section 42 and 43 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 punishable with imprisonment and fine.


17/8/2018

(Yashwant Kumar)
Assistant Director General (Auth)

To,

All AUAs and ASAs

All STQC Certified Biometric Device Providers

Copy to:

DDG (AS)/Director (AS-II), Department of Telecom

All DDGs, UIDAI

Tech Center, UIDAI