

To the DHSC,

The organisations signing this statement build, operate or supply the software behind smart coolers. We welcome the government's decision to end the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to children, and we take no issue with the age limit chosen, the definition adopted, or the conclusion that a conventional vending machine has no reliable way of judging a buyer's age. Our request to the Department is a limited one. Where a machine is incapable of handing over its contents to anyone whose age has not been confirmed by an assurance provider certified under the government's digital verification framework, and where a full record of each transaction is kept for enforcement purposes, we believe the sale should sit outside the prohibition applying to vending machines. Equipment without that capability would remain within the ban as announced. In practice, a qualifying machine would keep its stock behind a locked door, release goods only to an identified account whose holder had already passed a certified age check, hold a record of every opening and every check for production to an authorised officer on demand, and be incapable of selling restricted drinks with the check switched off. It would fall to the seller to show that these safeguards were in place at the time of any sale; a machine relying on payment alone would not qualify. We recognise that the Department may wish to see further evidence before writing such an exclusion into the regulations. A workable alternative would be a provision enabling the Secretary of State to recognise approved verification standards by notice, against published criteria, once the evidence is judged sufficient. At minimum, we would ask that the question be examined at the post-implementation review, informed by a supervised pilot conducted before the ban takes effect in April 2027. No signatory seeks preferential treatment. Our shared position is that any provider certified to a published standard should be able to serve any machine, whoever manufactures it. We are prepared to make our equipment available for a supervised pilot with the Department and Trading Standards, to accept unannounced test access by enforcement officers, and to have the findings published in full. This statement accompanies the submission entitled A future-proof ban (Nubar Technology Ltd, August 2026). The signatories consent to its being shown to the Department of Health and Social Care and to Members of.

Signed for and on behalf of the organisation named below

Organisation: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____