

Human Origin Specification v0.2

Working draft · 30 September 2026 · Camille Guerineau (ORCID 0009-0009-0364-6396) · CC BY 4.0

Companion paper: [doi:10.5281/zenodo.23049397](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23049397) · Pilot: human-origin-label.lochness-paris.com · API: human-origin-label.lochness-paris.com/api/

Status of this document

This is a working draft (v0.2) of the Human Origin Specification. It describes how the Human Origin label identifies creators, what each status means, how reviews are carried out, and how anyone can verify a badge or a file. It reflects the pilot implementation at human-origin-label.lochness-paris.com. The concept, method and pilot design are described in a companion paper: [doi:10.5281/zenodo.23049397](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23049397).

The key words MUST, MUST NOT, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT and MAY are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119. Items marked **(planned)** describe features that are not yet available. This text is released under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0).

1. Purpose and scope

A Human Origin **reviewed** badge attests that an independent reviewer examined evidence of the creative process for the works it covers, on a stated date, by a stated method. A **self-declared** badge attests only that the creator committed to the Creator Charter; nobody checked it.

The label MUST NOT be presented as proof that no AI tool was used at any point, as a certification within the meaning of any consumer law, or as covering works beyond the scope stated on the verification page.

This specification covers five disciplines: writing, illustration, photography, music and video.

2. Terminology

Term	Definition
Creator	A person whose creative process is reviewed and who displays a badge
Reviewer	A person acting for the label who examines process evidence and records a decision
Registry	The authoritative list of creator records, their statuses and certified works
Creator record	The entry for one creator, identified by a creator ID
Verification page	The public page that displays a creator record
Badge	An image served by the label that shows a status and links to a verification page or the programme page
Watermark	A transparent mark placed on a creator's images or videos, bearing the creator ID
Work	A single creative output covered by a review
Fingerprint	The SHA-256 digest of the exact bytes of a work's original file
Scope	The works or channels a review covers, stated on the verification page
Creator Charter	The rules on AI use that creators commit to, per discipline

3. Identifiers

Each reviewed creator receives one creator ID of the form `H0-YYYY-NNNN` , for example `H0-2026-0001` .

- `H0` is the fixed prefix. `YYYY` is the year of the series. `NNNN` is a sequence number of at least four digits, zero-padded; it MAY grow to six digits.
- The pattern is `^H0-[0-9]{4}-[0-9]{4,6}$` . Implementations MUST treat IDs as case-sensitive strings and MUST NOT infer anything from the sequence number beyond order of issue.

- An ID MUST be unique and MUST NOT be reassigned, including after revocation or deletion of the record.
- One creator ID covers all disciplines listed in the record. Self-declared badges carry no ID.

The verification page of a creator is found at `{site}/verify/{creator ID}`.

4. Statuses

A badge shows exactly one status. The set is closed: implementations MUST NOT display any other.

Status	Colour	Meaning	Carries an ID
reviewed	Green	A reviewer examined the creator's process for the stated scope	Yes
declared	Orange	The creator committed to the Charter; not checked	No
revoked	Red	A reviewed badge was withdrawn, or any badge is displayed on a blocked website	Yes, when it was reviewed
demo	Green or red, with a notice	A fictional record used to illustrate the system; its page says so and is excluded from search engines	Yes
expired (planned)	To be defined	The review is older than its validity period and awaits renewal	Yes

Allowed transitions: `reviewed` → `revoked` (Section 10); `revoked` → `reviewed` only after a new decision recorded on the page; a creator with a `declared` badge MAY apply and become `reviewed`, which requires replacing the badge code.

5. Review requirements

A `reviewed` status MUST rest on evidence of the creative process, examined by a person. An automated detector score MUST NOT be the basis of a decision.

Review modes. A review MUST use one of these modes, and the mode MUST be published on the verification page:

1. **Live walkthrough:** the creator shares their screen on a video call and opens their files. Nothing is recorded or retained.
2. **Screen recording with one-time code:** the reviewer sends a code (for example H0-7K2P) just before recording; the code **MUST** appear in the recording. Recordings **MUST** be sent through an end-to-end encrypted channel with disappearing messages, or an expiring link, and **MUST** be deleted within 7 days of the decision.

Evidence by discipline. The reviewer **SHOULD** examine evidence of the following kinds:

Discipline	Evidence
Writing	Document version history, drafts, outlines, notes
Illustration	Layered source files, sketches, timelapse recordings
Photography	RAW files with EXIF data, contact sheets
Music	DAW project files, stems, raw recordings
Video	Raw footage, editing project files

Decision and consent. Before a record is published, the creator **MUST** accept the Creator Charter in writing and agree to publication of their verification page; the reviewer records the acceptance date. The reviewer **MUST** record the scope, the method and a short description of the evidence seen. Declined applicants **MAY** use the self-declared badge.

6. Verification page

Every creator ID **MUST** resolve to a public verification page. An unknown ID **MUST** return HTTP 404 with a lookup form.

Field	Required	Notes
Status	Yes	With the revocation date when revoked
Creator ID	Yes	As in Section 3
Official badge	Yes	Rendered by the label, for visual comparison with badges seen elsewhere
Creator name	Yes	Name or professional name
Disciplines	Yes	One or more of the five
Website	Yes	The only website where the badge may be displayed, with the accounts below
Official accounts	No	Social accounts where the badge or watermark may appear
Scope (work covered)	Yes	What the review covers
Review date	Yes	ISO 8601 date
Review method	Yes	One of the modes in Section 5
Evidence examined	Yes	A short list, no files
Certified works	No	Title, date and fingerprint per work (Section 8)
Charter version	Yes	The version the creator accepted
What the badge means	Yes	Including that it does not prove absence of AI

Outbound links from the page to the creator's website and accounts SHOULD carry `rel="nofollow noopener"` . A `revoked` page MUST remain public and state the status clearly. A `demo` page MUST display a notice that the record is fictional and MUST carry `noindex` .

7. Badges

Semantics. Colour, icon and words MUST agree: green with a check mark and “Process reviewed”, orange with a dotted circle and “Self-declared”, red with a cross and “Badge revoked”. Status MUST

NOT be conveyed by colour alone.

Formats. Badges are SVG images served by the label.

Format	Sizes (px)	Available for
Horizontal badge	380 × 112 (l), 300 × 88 (m), 230 × 48 (s)	Reviewed, declared
Round seal	160, 112, 72	Reviewed, declared
Watermark	360 × 80, 270 × 60, 180 × 40	Reviewed only

URL scheme. `{site}/badges/{format}-{discipline}-{level}-{theme}[-{number}][-{size}].svg`, where format is badge, seal or watermark; discipline is writing, illustration, photography, music or video; level is reviewed or declared; theme is light or dark; number is the sequence part of the creator ID (reviewed only); size is s, m or omitted for large.

- A reviewed badge MUST only be served for a registered ID and a discipline listed in its record; otherwise the server MUST return 404.
- A reviewed badge links to the creator's verification page; a declared badge links to the programme page.
- The creator ID MUST remain legible. Badges and watermarks MUST NOT be altered, cropped or recoloured.
- Badges MAY be displayed on the creator's listed website and accounts only, next to covered works, or site-wide when all published work is covered.

8. Work fingerprints

A certified work is identified by the SHA-256 digest of the exact bytes of its original file, written as 64 lowercase hexadecimal characters. Any change to the file, including recompression, resizing or metadata removal, produces a different fingerprint.

Computation. Fingerprints MUST be computed on the user's device. A creator submitting a fingerprint and a person checking a file MUST NOT be required to upload the file. The reference implementation computes SHA-256 in the browser, reading the file in 4 MB chunks.

Record. Each work in a creator record holds:

```
{"hash": "8f7ae72c2bf7e906038ff4b532f2d27d1f68cb429ada547d4a8781309cd02a3b", "titl
```

- A fingerprint **MUST** only be recorded for a work within the reviewed scope, and **SHOULD** be the final version.
- A match proves that a file is byte-identical to the certified work. It does not extend the scope of the review.
- Checking **MUST** be available on the creator's verification page and on a registry-wide page (`{site}/fingerprint/`).
- A match on a `revoked` record **MUST** be reported as revoked, not as certified.

Fingerprints **MAY** additionally be timestamped with an independent service such as OpenTimestamps (planned).

9. Verification API

A read-only, public JSON API lets platforms verify creators and files without scraping pages. It requires no key, is open to other origins (CORS) and is documented at `{site}/api/`.

Method and path	Returns
GET <code>/api/v1/creators/{creator ID}</code>	The public fields of a creator record (Section 6) and its status, <code>reviewed</code> or <code>revoked</code>
GET <code>/api/v1/works?sha256={fingerprint}</code>	Every certified work matching the fingerprint, with its creator ID and status

Example response for a fingerprint lookup:

```
{"api_version": "1", "sha256": "8f7a...2a3b", "matches": [{"creator_id": "H0-2026-00
```

- The API **MUST** expose only fields shown on public verification pages.
- Responses **MAY** be cached for up to 5 minutes and **MUST NOT** be cached for more than one hour, so that revocations propagate.
- A malformed ID or fingerprint **MUST** return HTTP 400; an unknown ID **MUST** return HTTP 404; any method other than GET or HEAD **MUST** return HTTP 405; a client exceeding the rate limit (60 requests per minute in the reference implementation) receives HTTP 429.
- Rate limiting **MUST NOT** store client addresses in clear; the reference implementation keeps a salted, daily-rotated hash for one minute.

- The earlier lookup `{site}/fingerprint/?check={sha256}` remains available for compatibility; it reports the status as `active` instead of `reviewed` .

10. Revocation and blocking

A reviewed badge MAY be revoked when the work covered includes AI-generated content, when evidence shown during the review was not genuine, or when the badge is displayed on someone else's work.

1. Except in cases of obvious fraud, the creator MUST be notified by email and given 14 days to explain or correct the situation.
2. On revocation, the verification page MUST show the status and date, and every badge served for that ID MUST render as revoked.
3. Badge images MUST be served with a cache lifetime of at most one hour, so that revocation is visible everywhere within that time.
4. Revocation MAY be reversed only by a new decision recorded on the page.

Blocking. Self-declared badges carry no ID, so they are revoked per website: when a domain is blocked, every badge requested from that domain or its subdomains MUST render as revoked, whatever its level. Blocking relies on the HTTP Referer header and is therefore partial (Section 12).

Images already exported (PNG files, embedded watermarks) cannot be changed remotely; for them the verification page is authoritative.

11. Privacy requirements

The label collects only what it publishes or needs to decide.

Data	Retention
Creators' original files	Never collected
Screen recordings sent for review	Deleted within 7 days of the decision
Creator record and verification page	While the badge exists; up to 24 months after revocation
Work fingerprints	While the badge exists
Badge display records (domain, page address)	24 months after last seen; no IP address or visitor data
Unanswered applications	12 months

- Files checked by the public **MUST** be fingerprinted locally and **MUST NOT** be transmitted.
- Search engines and social networks **MUST NOT** be recorded as sites displaying badges.
- A creator **MAY** ask at any time for their record to be deleted; their badges then stop working.
- Publication of a verification page requires the creator's consent (Section 5).

12. Security considerations and limitations

Threat or limit	Effect	Mitigation
Copying a genuine badge to another site	The badge appears on unrelated work	Verification page lists the only allowed website and accounts; display monitoring alerts the reviewer; domain blocking
Reusing a badge on a generated image	A work appears certified	Work fingerprints: the image does not match any certified work
Staged process	A fabricated process passes review	Live review, one-time codes, consistency across several works; cannot be eliminated
Hidden referrer or cached images	Monitoring and blocking miss some displays	Treated as a lower bound; the verification page stays authoritative
Exported PNGs and watermarks	Cannot be revoked remotely	Verification page shows the current status
Ephemeral channels	Recipients can still capture content	Commitment is deletion within 7 days, not technical impossibility
Single reviewer (pilot)	Limited throughput; reviewer error	Planned second reviewer for borderline cases, published statistics, appeal procedure

No part of the system can prove that a work was made without any AI assistance. Implementations MUST NOT claim otherwise.

13. Conformance for third parties

A platform, gallery, marketplace or competition that displays Human Origin status for a creator or a file is a conforming integration when it:

1. Obtains the status from the label at display time (verification page or API), not from a copy stored earlier;
2. Shows the status with the same meaning as Section 4, and never shows **declared** as reviewed;
3. Links to the creator's verification page wherever a reviewed status is shown;

4. For files, compares fingerprints computed on the user's device and reports a match on a revoked record as revoked;
5. Does not alter the label's badges or imply that the label certifies more than the stated scope.

Only conforming integrations MAY describe themselves as “Human Origin verified”.

14. Governance, versioning and change log

The specification is edited by the operator of Human Origin, Camille G. (ORCID 0009-0009-0364-6396), who is also the founder of Loch Ness. Proposals and corrections can be sent to contact@lochness-paris.com.

- Versions follow MAJOR.MINOR. A MINOR version adds or clarifies without changing the meaning of existing statuses or identifiers; a MAJOR version may change them.
- Each published version is frozen and deposited on Zenodo with its own DOI. The current version is published at `{site}/spec/`.
- Reviewed creators are notified at least 30 days before a change to the Creator Charter applies to them.

Version	Date	Change
0.1	30 September 2026	First working draft, reflecting the pilot implementation
0.2	30 September 2026	Section 9: the verification API is implemented (endpoints, errors, rate limiting, caching)

Open questions for v1.0: the validity period for reviews and the `expired` status; the governance body beyond a single operator; authentication for any future write access.