

**PAS 44010:2022**

# Design, implementation and maintenance of voluntary agreements – Specification



**UK Research  
and Innovation**



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# Foreword

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The provisions of this PAS are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. "organization" rather than "organisation").

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# Introduction

There are many situations where organizations identify a need to work collaboratively to jointly agree changes to current practices. In many cases, this can be achieved through voluntary agreements to deliver desired aims that are mutually beneficial to all stakeholders.

In a variety of cases, initiatives and objectives can be better achieved through a voluntary agreement, as opposed to implementing legislation or commercial instruments, particularly where such activities may cross national boundaries that might introduce wider implications and possible constraints. A voluntary agreement can often deliver change faster than introduction of legislation.

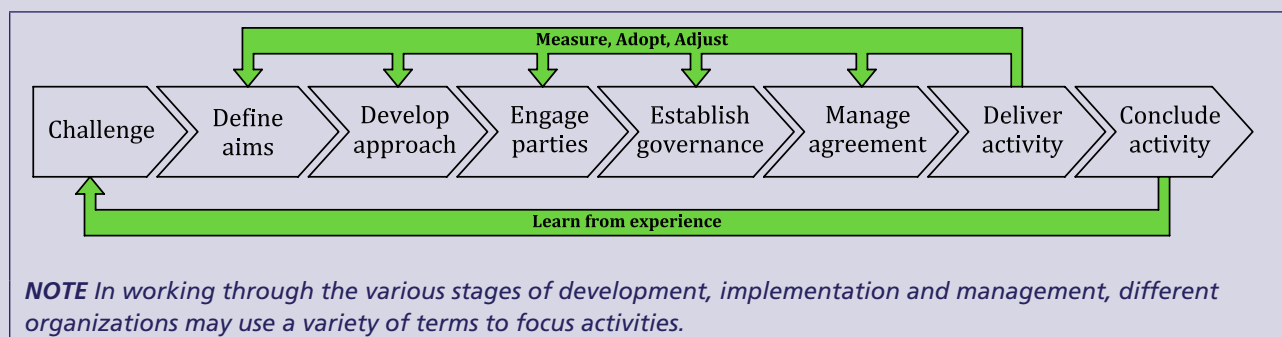
A voluntary agreement offers the opportunity for a community of stakeholders to develop a mutually agreed collaborative arrangement that supports their collective aims. The impetus for a voluntary agreement can come from different sources. A collective ambition is developed and a single source, that engages externally. These agreements can address several topics and may include (but are not limited to):

- a) environmental agreements;
- b) mutually beneficial industry technical alignment;
- c) societal improvement programmes;
- d) emergency response programmes;
- e) multi-party voluntary agreements; and
- f) charity agreements including a variety of research programmes.

This PAS provides a structured approach and requirements so that when voluntary agreements are established, they can be more effectively designed, implemented and maintained. This approach provides clarity and transparency so that these are well-designed to deliver the intended aims and necessary objectives required to achieve them.

In developing this PAS, the requirements have been organized to provide a route map of how a voluntary agreement may be designed, managed and implemented as illustrated in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 – Voluntary agreement – General road map**



# 1 Scope

This PAS specifies a structured approach through which a voluntary agreement can be more effectively designed, implemented and maintained. This PAS covers the purpose, agreed roles and responsibilities, effective management of stakeholder activities and sustainability of a voluntary agreement needed to deliver mutually desired outcomes.

This PAS also specifies a framework for initiating a voluntary agreement in collaboration with those who consent to participate and support the development and application of a defined agreement. This may be a recommended approach or one that is mutually agreed between the parties at the outset.

This PAS also covers:

- a) the content creation of voluntary agreements and their governance structure – including roles and responsibilities;
- b) establishing aims, objectives, measuring results, evaluating progress and realigning the direction of the agreement (as and when necessary);
- c) identification of stakeholder contributions and resources; and
- d) methods of managing stakeholder activities and sustaining management relationships, until a controlled exit takes place.

This PAS is intended for use by a variety of stakeholders within or across multiple sectors that will support specifically defined aims. These might include (but are not limited to):

- 1) government bodies (local, national and/or international);
- 2) commercial businesses of all sizes;
- 3) industry organizations and associations;
- 4) non-government organizations (e.g. charities);
- 5) academic institutions; and
- 6) funding organizations (e.g. development banks).