

Section 508 compliance checklist

The information presented within this checklist is aimed at website owners seeking to learn the ropes of web accessibility. Technical elements are described in layman's terms, and, as a rule, all topics pertaining to the legalities of web accessibility are presented in as simplified a manner as possible.

This checklist has no legal bearing, and cannot be relied on in the case of litigation.

- Provide text alternatives for non-text content such as audio files, images, and videos**
- Provide an alternative to video-only and audio-only content**
Provide transcripts for audio-only content, such as podcasts. Video-only content should have either a descriptive transcript or audio description
- Provide captions for videos with audio**
- Ensure a high contrast between text sections and their backgrounds**
Ensure proper contrast between text (or images of text) and its background, with a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1. When using bold or large text (18pt or larger), a 3:1 ratio is sufficient. Contrast restrictions do not apply to logos and brand names
- Define a page's language**
This can be indicated with the lang attribute on the HTML element
- Ensure all website functionality is operable via keyboard**
- When visitors are met with time limitations within your website, ensure the time limit can be adjusted**
- Minimize distractions and allow website visitors to turn off or postpone interruptions**
People should also be able to postpone or suppress interruptions, updates, and alerts on your website, except in an emergency
- Ensure your website has no flashing content that can induce seizures**
Web pages should not contain anything that flashes more than three times in one second
- Ensure that any single character key shortcuts are adjustable**
If you incorporate these in your website, either add a modifier key to the shortcut (e.g., Ctrl, Alt), or provide a way to turn them off or change them

- Provide a “Skip to Content” link so website visitors can skip directly to the main content area
- Ensure that if a website visitor commits an error, the error is identified and described in text, and announced by screen readers
- Ensure that labels and instructions are descriptive and clear for all website visitors
Elements such as buttons, search boxes, and any other interactive elements should be clearly labeled
- Ensure that your website has a clear and concise heading structure
Headings should be clear and concise, and organized hierarchically
- Ensure that content placement and functionality is predictable
Be sure that website visitors can easily find content and determine where they are on a given web page
- Ensure page titles are clear and helpful
- Ensure that functionality requiring gestures can be performed by website visitors with limited mobility
- Ensure that all links have text that accurately conveys the purpose of the link
When an [image is the only content](#) of a link, the alt text for the image is sufficient to describe its purpose
- Ensure that electronic documents are accessible and can be read by assistive technologies

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