

ADA 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.

WCAG 2.1 Level A

Provide text alternatives for applicable non-text content

Create text alternatives for non-text content so that it can be turned into large print, braille, speech, symbols, or simpler language. This [doesn't apply to decorative images](#)

Provide an alternative to video-only and audio-only content

Provide captions for videos with audio

Ensure that information conveyed by color is also visually evident without color

Ensure that website visitors are able to control auto-playing content

Auto-playing content can interfere with screen reader technology and, if possible, it is best to disable it completely

Ensure all website functionality is operable via keyboard

Ensure that website visitors are able to control time limits when reading or engaging with interactive elements

Make sure that website visitors can request more time and won't lose session data by doing so

Ensure your website does not feature content that can induce seizures

Web pages should not contain anything that [flashes more than three times](#) in one second

Ensure that single-key shortcuts can be turned off or changed

Provide a "Skip to Content" link to allow website visitors to skip directly to the main content area

- Ensure that if a website visitor commits an error, the error is identified and described to the website visitor in text**
Simply coloring a field red is not enough to communicate an error
- Ensure web page titles are clear and helpful**
- Ensure all functions can be performed by website visitors with limited mobility**
- Ensure each web page has the correct language assigned**
- Ensure that web elements do not change when they receive input**

WCAG 2.1 Level AA

WCAG 2.1 Level AA is the current best measure of web accessibility when it comes to federal law. It is unlikely that a website that conforms to WCAG 2.1 Level AA would be sued for lack of accessibility

- Provide captions for live videos**
- Provide website visitors with audio descriptions for video content**
- Ensure that website visitors can use either screen orientation**
Content viewability and operation shouldn't be restricted to a single orientation, unless a specific display orientation is essential (such as a bank check or slides for a projector)
- Ensure a high contrast between text sections and their backgrounds**
Ensure good 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
- Ensure that text can be resized to 200% without loss of content or function**
- Ensure your website is responsive**
- Use clear headings and labels to make it easier for people with disabilities to find content and navigate a web page**
- Make sure to indicate in code when the language on a web page changes**
- Ensure menus, icons, and buttons appear consistently**
- Ensure that when website visitors adjust text spacing, there is no loss in functionality**

WCAG 2.1 Level AAA

WCAG 2.1 Level AAA is the highest level of conformance to WCAG 2.1. Organizations should strive to meet as many of its criteria as possible, although Level AAA may not be applicable or realistic for everyone to achieve.

- Provide sign language translations for videos
- Provide extended audio description for videos
- Provide a text alternative to videos
- Provide alternatives for live audio
- Ensure a contrast ratio between text and background of at least 7:1
For text appearing in bold or in font size 18pt and higher, a 4.5:1 contrast ratio is sufficient. These restrictions do not apply to logos and brand names
- Ensure your website is entirely accessible via keyboard, without exception
- Remove time limits from all website elements
- Ensure that no content flashes more than three times per second
- Ensure that no elements are changed unless visitors explicitly show that they wish them to
- Explain the meanings of abbreviations when you use them
- Explain the meaning of unusual words when you use them

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