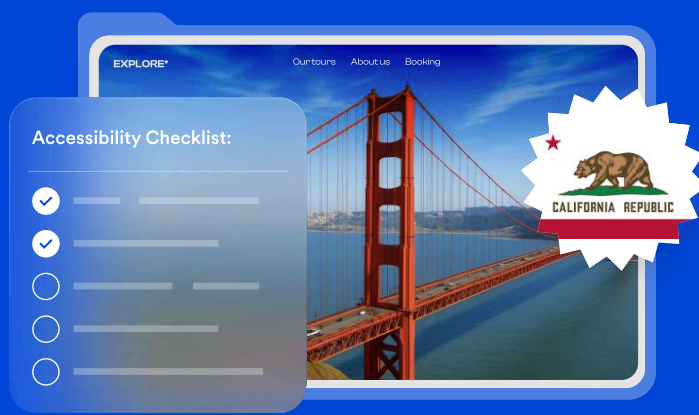


Your *California* accessibility compliance checklist



This checklist is designed to help you conform with WCAG 2.1 Level AA, so you can comply with California legislation with confidence. It can help you mitigate your legal risk and deliver a better experience for all users.

Whether you're starting from scratch or fine-tuning an existing strategy, these steps will guide your team through the essentials of accessible web design and ongoing compliance.

1. Understand your legal landscape

Before making changes to your website, get clear on which laws apply to your business.

- ✓ Determine if your business is based in California or serves California residents
- ✓ Review applicable laws: ADA, Unruh Act, CCPA/CPRA, Section 508, AB 434 (public sector), and AB 1757 (pending)
- ✓ Assign internal ownership for accessibility (legal, dev, or marketing team)

2. Identify accessibility gaps

Evaluate your website to uncover potential barriers for users with disabilities.

- ✓ Scan your website to detect accessibility issues. You can use accessScan for a free, instant audit and report
- ✓ For more in-depth accessibility needs, conduct manual testing for real-world scenarios like navigation, forms, and checkout
- ✓ Prioritize high-risk violations, such as missing alt text, poor contrast, or inaccessible buttons

3. Fix barriers and align with WCAG 2.1 Level AA

The most widely accepted path to compliance is following WCAG 2.1 Level AA, the standard courts and lawmakers in California use to evaluate digital accessibility.

Make content perceivable:

- ✓ Provide alt text to all meaningful images
- ✓ Ensure text can be resized to 200% without loss of content or function
- ✓ Provide captions and audio descriptions for video content
- ✓ Provide transcripts for audio and video content
- ✓ Ensure information conveyed by color is distinguishable without color
- ✓ Ensure high contrast between text and background
- ✓ Indicate language changes in code

Make content operable:

- ✓ Ensure all functionality is operable via keyboard
- ✓ Add a "Skip to Content" link for easy navigation
- ✓ Make buttons, icons, and menus consistent and predictable
- ✓ Ensure web elements remain stable when receiving input
- ✓ Allow users to control time limits when engaging with forms or interactions
- ✓ Allow users to pause or stop movement and auto-playing content
- ✓ Make sure website visitors can use either screen orientation (portrait or landscape)

Make content understandable:

- ✓ Use clear headings and labels throughout your site
- ✓ Create clear and helpful web page titles
- ✓ Ensure errors are clearly identified and explained

Make content robust:

- ✓ Ensure your website is responsive and functions across all screen sizes and devices
- ✓ Make all functions accessible to users with limited mobility
- ✓ Use clean, semantic HTML that works with screen readers and assistive tools
- ✓ Ensure your content maintains functionality when adjusting text spacing

4. Ensure legal and privacy elements are accessible

Privacy tools are also required to be accessible under California law.

- ✓ Ensure cookie banners and privacy opt-outs work with assistive technology
- ✓ Make privacy policies and notices keyboard accessible and screen reader friendly
- ✓ Test consent elements (like checkboxes) for usability and WCAG alignment

5. Maintain and document accessibility over time

Accessibility isn't a one-time task—it requires ongoing attention.

- ✓ Schedule regular accessibility scans to catch new issues
- ✓ Manually re-test after major updates, redesigns, or feature launches
- ✓ Train your content and dev teams in accessibility best practices if relevant
- ✓ Keep a record of audits, remediations, and improvements

accessiBe can help



accessScan

Free, AI-powered accessibility audit and report



accessWidget

Easy to install AI-powered automated scanning and remediation to help you meet WCAG 2.1 AA



Manual testing & custom remediation

A combination of automated remediation and manual testing and custom fixes from accessibility experts



accessFlow

An accessibility management platform for developers so you can handle code-level accessibility in-house, without additional experience required



accessServices

Manual audits, VPATs, file remediation, and more

Ready to *get started?*

Schedule a demo with one of our accessibility experts

BOOK A DEMO →