

VPAT™

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template®

The purpose of the **Voluntary Product Accessibility Template**, or **VPAT™**, is to help federal contracting officials and other buyers in making preliminary assessments regarding the availability of commercial electronic and information technology products and services with features that support accessibility. Officials and buyers will provide additional contact information to help more detailed inquiries.

The first table of the template is a summary view of the Section 508 standards. The later tables provide more detailed views of each subsection. There are three columns in each table.

Column one of the summary table describes the subsections of subparts B and C of the standards. The second column describes the supporting features of the product or refers to the corresponding detailed table, e.g., “equivalent facilitation.” The third column has additional remarks and explanations about the product.

In the later tables, the first column has the lettered paragraphs of the subsections. The second column describes the product features that support that paragraph. The third column has any additional remarks and explanations about the product.

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Name of product: All EIT products

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Summary Table

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Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	N/A	
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	N/A	
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria	Fully supported	Fully 508 compliant design and implementation
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Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.	Supports	Text labels are provided as mouse shortcuts and fully use the arrow and page up/down keys.
(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.	Supports	Software design and creation does not disrupt built-in accessibility features inherent in COTS applications.
(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.	Supports	The position of the programs' focus is made available through its code to assistive technology.
(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.	Supports	Text is associated with each user interface element.

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.	Supports	Consistent text names are assigned to bitmap images throughout an application's performance.
(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.	Supports	Text written to the screen is provided through operating system functions.
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	Supports	For accessibility, a method for using the system display setting will be provided.
(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.	Supports	For accessibility, there is an option to turn off animation.
(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	Supports	Text labels are used with color to distinguish a visual element or prompt.
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.	Supports	The user will be able to adjust color and contrast for readability.
(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supports	Software will not flash or blink within the frequency range of 2 Hz to 55 Hz, if at all.
(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports	Labels are placed in the most logical position relative to input fields for consistence of cues.

Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via “alt,” “longdesc,” or in element content).	Supports	All images, audio, navigation and input boxes have alt and title attributes.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	Supports	Audio for video is transcribed. Captions are inserted under the video and synchronized with the presentation via transcription timestamps and visual inspection.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	Supports	All graphics using color to indicate different states (such as grayed-out buttons and active/inactive icons) have dynamic alt and title attributes that indicate their state. For example, the alt for a Save button reads <i>Save</i> and the alt for a grayed-out button reads <i>Save Disabled</i> . Usability testing is by black and white printer.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supports	Documents are readable without a style sheet, or style sheets are external types.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Supports	Alt text is provided for active regions of image maps if server-side image maps are used. Client-side image maps are used whenever possible.
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	Supports	Alt text is provided for active regions of image maps.

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Supports	Documents use 508-compliant HTML techniques to cross-index row and column headers. (<TH> tags with ID attributes, <TD> tags with HEADERS attributes.)
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	Supports	Documents use 508-compliant HTML techniques to cross-index row and column headers. (<TH> tags with ID attributes, <TD> tags with HEADERS attributes.) Additionally, the "Scope" attribute is used to further help with HTML compliance.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	Supports	We do not use HTML frames. Some areas of the document scroll using <DIV> tags with scrollable overflow attributes to mimic frames.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supports	Pages are designed to avoid making the screen flicker. Animated GIFs, Java applets, and plug-ins are inspected for flashing or flickering.
(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.	Supports	The document is designed to follow 508 standards and to use only accessible interface techniques so that no alternative text-only pages are required.

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.	Supports	Interface elements created by scripting languages are displayed using standard HTML accompanied by applicable 508-compliant techniques (such as labels, alts, titles, and summary attributes) to help screen-reading technology.
(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with §1194.21(a) through (l).	Supports	Links are provided for accessing proprietary plug-ins such as Real Audio or Adobe PDF documents.
(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports	Form fields are readily accessed and use the <LABEL> tag. Inputs also have alt attributes that describe them. Users can navigate and interact with form elements using the keyboard.
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Supports	Users can skip repetitive navigation links using HTML links to named anchors within the navigation interface.
(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	Supports	The user is alerted via a prompt and given enough time to indicate when they need additional time.

Note to 1194.22: The Board interprets paragraphs (a) through (k) of this section as consistent with the following priority 1 Checkpoints of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG 1.0) (May 5, 1999) published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium: Paragraph (a) - 1.1, (b) - 1.4, (c) - 2.1, (d) - 6.1, (e) - 1.2, (f) - 9.1, (g) - 5.1, (h) - 5.2, (i) - 12.1, (j) - 7.1, (k) - 11.4.

Section 1194.24 Video and Multimedia Products - Detail

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
<p>a) All analog television displays 13 inches and larger, and computer equipment that includes analog television receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals. As soon as practicable, but not later than July 1, 2002, widescreen digital television (DTV) displays measuring at least 7.8 inches vertically, DTV sets with conventional displays measuring at least 13 inches vertically, and stand-alone DTV tuners, whether or not they are marketed with display screens, and computer equipment that includes DTV receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals.</p>	N/A	N/A
<p>(b) Television tuners, including tuner cards for use in computers, shall be equipped with secondary audio program playback circuitry.</p>	N/A	N/a
<p>(c) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain speech or other audio information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be open or closed captioned.</p>	Supports	Multimedia is transcribed and captioned as appropriate.
<p>(d) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain visual information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be audio described.</p>	Supports	Audio descriptions added as appropriate.
<p>(e) Display or presentation of alternate text presentation or audio descriptions shall be user-selectable unless permanent.</p>	Supports	Alt text provided as appropriate.

Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports	Features may be accessed by text input. Programming can allow people who are visually impaired to submit commands via voice input or other means and can allow plain text results to be presented via speech synthesis or a Braille display.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports	Programming can allow audio or enlarged print output.
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided	Supports	Programming can allow text to be displayed or can support Assistive Technology.
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	Supports	Programming can support assistive hearing devices.
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	Supports	The user can access designed features via keyboard text input.

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	Supports	Option for software design to operate with Assistive Technology so that the user can input commands and retrieve results via speech synthesis or other method that submits plain-text commands and presents plain-text results.

Section 1194.41 Information, documentation, and support.

Criteria	Supporting features	Remarks and explanations
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge.	Supports	Documentation may be in PDF format for speech recognition.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	Supports	Accessibility and compatibility features are provided upon request.
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supports	To the extent possible, support services will accommodate end-users with disabilities.