



Section 508 Compliance Fact Sheet

What is Section 508?

Section 508 was made part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in 1998. Its purpose is to require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities.

The refresh in January of 2017 updated accessibility guidelines and requirements for information and communication technology (ICT) in the federal sector. The refresh in January of 2017 updated accessibility guidelines and requirements for information and communication technology (ICT) in the federal sector.

Who needs to be 508 Compliant?

Section 508 doesn't apply to federal agencies only. It also impacts any company that does business with a federal agency. This includes private contractors, the financial industry, healthcare, many legal organizations, and others

What documents fall under Section 508?

- Website content
- Emails
- Computer software
- Gaming systems
- Apps
- PDFs

Misunderstandings of 508

Making individual accommodations for persons with disabilities is regulated under Section 504 and not 508.

508 includes disabilities that may not be apparent. You cannot assume your intended audience doesn't have people with disabilities.

Related Laws

It is important to understand Section 508 in the context of other laws related to federal disability policy. In addition to Section 508, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 has several other sections:

- **Section 501 and 505** - Prohibits federal employers from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities
- **Section 503** - Prohibits employment discrimination based on disability by federal contractors or subcontractors
- **Section 504** - Prohibits federal agencies, programs, or activities from discriminating and requires reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with disabilities

Additional Related Laws Include

[Section 255 of the Communications Act](#) - Requires telecommunications products and services to be accessible to people with disabilities

[Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) - The first major legislative effort to secure an equal playing field for individuals with disabilities

[Assistive Technology Act of 1998](#) - Establishes a grant program to provide Federal funds to support State programs that address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities

[Help America Vote Act of 2002](#) - Mandates improvements to voting systems and voter access for the nation's voting process

[21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010](#) - Requires advanced communications services and products to be accessible by people with disabilities

Websites

Access Board - <http://www.access-board.gov/508.htm>

Buy Accessible Wizard - <http://www.buyaccessible.gov/>

Section 508 website - <http://section508.gov/>