

ReferenceUSA VPAT

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines [2.0 level AA](#)

Updated April 15, 2017

Principle 1: Perceivable – information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive.

Standard	Description	Apply Yes/No	Meets Yes/No	Comments (mandatory)
<i>Guideline 1.1 Text Alternatives: Provide text alternatives for any non-text content so that it can be changed into other forms people need, such as large print, braille, speech, symbols or simpler language.</i>				
1.1.1	<p>Non-text Content: All non-text content that is presented to the user has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose, except for the situations listed below (Level A).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls, Input: If non-text content is a control or accepts user input, then it has a name that describes its purpose. (Refer to Guideline 4.1 for additional requirements for controls and content that accepts user input.) • Time-Based Media: If non-text content is time-based media, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. (Refer to Guideline 1.2 for the additional requirements for media.) • Test: If non-text content is a test or exercise that would be invalid if presented in text, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. • Sensory: If non-text content is primarily intended to create a specific sensory experience, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. • CAPTCHA: If the purpose of non-text content is to confirm that content is being accessed by a person rather than a computer, then text alternatives that identify and describe the purpose of the non-text content are provided, and alternative forms of CAPTCHA using output modes for different types of sensory perception are provided to accommodate different disabilities. • Decorative, Formatting, Invisible: If non-text content is pure decoration, is used only for visual formatting, or is not presented to users, then it is implemented in a way that it can be ignored by assistive technology. 	Yes	Yes	<p>We run our site pages for compliance checks with 508 & WCAG 2.0 (A-AA) on a regular basis using the website AChecker.ca</p> <p>After each run we fix all issues identified by the audit tool and use the feedback to apply to our design & development best practices.</p> <p>The most recent audit run was April 2017.</p>
<i>Guideline 1.2 Time-based Media: Provide alternatives for time-based media.</i>				

1.2.1	Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded): For prerecorded audio-only and prerecorded video-only media, the following are true, except when the audio or video is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such (Level A): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prerecorded Audio-only: An alternative for time-based media is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded audio-only content. • Prerecorded Video-only: Either an alternative for time-based media or an audio track is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded video-only content. 	Yes	Yes	All time-based media content includes audio descriptions or instructional text where appropriate that can be recognized by screen reading software.
1.2.2	Captions (Prerecorded): Captions are provided for all prerecorded audio content in synchronized media, except when the media is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such. (Level A)	No	No	At this time we do not offer captions for pre-recorded content
1.2.3	Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded): An alternative for time-based media or audio description of the prerecorded video content is provided for synchronized media, except when the media is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	We comply with text and audio alternative content.
1.2.4	Captions (Live): Captions are provided for all live audio content in synchronized media. (Level AA)	No	No	We do not currently offer live content captions
1.2.5	Audio Description (Prerecorded): Audio description is provided for all prerecorded video content in synchronized media. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	All video content has text descriptions.
1.2.6	Sign Language (Prerecorded): Sign language interpretation is provided for all prerecorded audio content in synchronized media. (Level AAA)			
1.2.7	Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded): Where pauses in foreground audio are insufficient to allow audio descriptions to convey the sense of the video, extended audio description is provided for all prerecorded video content in synchronized media. (Level AAA)			
1.2.8	Media Alternative (Prerecorded): An alternative for time-based media is provided for all prerecorded synchronized media and for all prerecorded video-only media. (Level AAA)			
1.2.9	Audio-only (Live): An alternative for time-based media that presents equivalent information for live audio-only content is provided. (Level AAA)			
<i>Guideline 1.3 Adaptable: Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure.</i>				

1.3.1	Info and Relationships: Information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can be programmatically determined or are available in text. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Information and relationships are available in text and can be programmatically determined
1.3.2	Meaningful Sequence: When the sequence in which content is presented affects its meaning, a correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	The correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined
1.3.3	Sensory Characteristics: Instructions provided for understanding and operating content do not rely solely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Instructions primarily rely on text even when sensory characteristics are leveraged.
<i>Guideline 1.4 Distinguishable: Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background.</i>				
1.4.1	Use of Color: Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Color is not the only visual means, text is also used
1.4.2	Audio Control: If any audio on a Web page plays automatically for more than 3 seconds, either a mechanism is available to pause or stop the audio, or a mechanism is available to control audio volume independently from the overall system volume level. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Every piece of audio content has pause/stop/volume controls
1.4.3	Contrast (Minimum): The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1, except for the following: (Level AA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Text: Large-scale text and images of large-scale text have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1; • Incidental: Text or images of text that are part of an inactive user interface component, that are pure decoration, that are not visible to anyone, or that are part of a picture that contains significant other visual content, have no contrast requirement. • Logotypes: Text that is part of a logo or brand name has no minimum contrast requirement. 	Yes	Yes	We design and develop using the latest standards. In addition, the compliance checker referenced above catches any variances.
1.4.4	Resize text: Except for captions and images of text, text can be resized without assistive technology up to 200 percent without loss of content or functionality. (Level AA)	No	No	We have investigated integrated partner options but have not implemented a solution at this time.

1.4.5	<p>Images of Text: If the technologies being used can achieve the visual presentation, text is used to convey information rather than images of text except for the following: (Level AA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customizable: The image of text can be visually customized to the user's requirements; • Essential: A particular presentation of text is essential to the information being conveyed. 	Yes	Yes	Text is used rather than images of text
1.4.6	<p>Contrast (Enhanced): The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 7:1, except for the following: (Level AAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Text: Large-scale text and images of large-scale text have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1; • Incidental: Text or images of text that are part of an inactive user interface component, that are pure decoration, that are not visible to anyone, or that are part of a picture that contains significant other visual content, have no contrast requirement. • Logotypes: Text that is part of a logo or brand name has no minimum contrast requirement. 			
1.4.7	<p>Low or No Background Audio: For prerecorded audio-only content that (1) contains primarily speech in the foreground, (2) is not an audio CAPTCHA or audio logo, and (3) is not vocalization intended to be primarily musical expression such as singing or rapping, at least one of the following is true: (Level AAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Background: The audio does not contain background sounds. • Turn Off: The background sounds can be turned off. • 20 dB: The background sounds are at least 20 decibels lower than the foreground speech content, with the exception of occasional sounds that last for only one or two seconds. 			
1.4.8	<p>Visual Presentation: For the visual presentation of blocks of text, a mechanism is available to achieve the following: (Level AAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreground and background colors can be selected by the user. • Width is no more than 80 characters or glyphs (40 if CJK). • Text is not justified (aligned to both the left and the right margins). • Line spacing (leading) is at least space-and-a-half within paragraphs, and paragraph spacing is at least 1.5 times larger than the line spacing. • Text can be resized without assistive technology up to 200 percent in a way that does not require the user to scroll horizontally to read a line of text on a full-screen window. 			
1.4.9	<p>Images of Text (No Exception): Images of text are only used for pure decoration or where a particular presentation of text is essential to the information being conveyed. (Level AAA)</p>			

Principle 2: Operable - User interface components and navigation must be operable.

Standard	Description	Apply Yes/No	Meets Yes/No	Comments
<i>Guideline 2.1 Keyboard Accessible: Make all functionality available from a keyboard.</i>				
2.1.1	Keyboard: All functionality of the content is operable through a keyboard interface without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes, except where the underlying function requires input that depends on the path of the user's movement and not just the endpoints. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	All functionality is operable through the keyboard
2.1.2	No Keyboard Trap: If keyboard focus can be moved to a component of the page using a keyboard interface, then focus can be moved away from that component using only a keyboard interface, and, if it requires more than unmodified arrow or tab keys or other standard exit methods, the user is advised of the method for moving focus away. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	No keyboard traps are presented
2.1.3	Keyboard (No Exception): All functionality of the content is operable through a keyboard interface without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes. (Level AAA)			

<i>Guideline 2.2 Enough Time: Provide users enough time to read and use content.</i>				
2.2.1	<p>Timing Adjustable: For each time limit that is set by the content, at least one of the following is true: (Level A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn off: The user is allowed to turn off the time limit before encountering it; or • Adjust: The user is allowed to adjust the time limit before encountering it over a wide range that is at least ten times the length of the default setting; or • Extend: The user is warned before time expires and given at least 20 seconds to extend the time limit with a simple action (for example, "press the space bar"), and the user is allowed to extend the time limit at least ten times; or • Real-time Exception: The time limit is a required part of a real-time event (for example, an auction), and no alternative to the time limit is possible; or • Essential Exception: The time limit is essential and extending it would invalidate the activity; or • 20 Hour Exception: The time limit is longer than 20 hours. 	Yes	Yes	No content times out. The only 'essential exception' would be a user being logged out after 15 minutes of inactivity if using a personalized (username/password) account.

2.2.2	<p>Pause, Stop, Hide: For moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information, all of the following are true: (Level A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving, blinking, scrolling: For any moving, blinking or scrolling information that (1) starts automatically, (2) lasts more than five seconds, and (3) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to pause, stop, or hide it unless the movement, blinking, or scrolling is part of an activity where it is essential; and Auto-updating: For any auto-updating information that (1) starts automatically and (2) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to pause, stop, or hide it or to control the frequency of the update unless the auto-updating is part of an activity where it is essential. 	Yes	Yes	We do not currently have any moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating website controls.
2.2.3	No Timing: Timing is not an essential part of the event or activity presented by the content, except for non-interactive synchronized media and real-time events. (Level AAA)			
2.2.4	Interruptions: Interruptions can be postponed or suppressed by the user, except interruptions involving an emergency. (Level AAA)			
2.2.5	Interruptions: Interruptions can be postponed or suppressed by the user, except interruptions involving an emergency. (Level AAA)			
Guideline 2.3 Seizures: Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures.				
2.3.1	Three Flashes or Below Threshold: Web pages do not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one second period, or the flash is below the general flash and red flash thresholds. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	We do not have any content that flashes above the threshold
2.3.2	Three Flashes: Web pages do not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one second period. (Level AAA)			
Guideline 2.4 Navigable: Provide ways to help users navigate, find content, and determine where they are.				
2.4.1	Bypass Blocks: A mechanism is available to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple Web pages. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Bypass blocks are available
2.4.2	Page Titled: Web pages have titles that describe topic or purpose. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	All pages are titled and descriptive
2.4.3	Focus Order: If a Web page can be navigated sequentially and the navigation sequences affect meaning or operation, focusable components receive focus in an order that preserves meaning and operability. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	All navigation sequences receive focus in an order that complies
2.4.4	Link Purpose (In Context): The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text alone or from the link text together with its programmatically determined link context, except where the purpose of the link would be ambiguous to users in general. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	All links have text descriptions
2.4.5	Multiple Ways: More than one way is available to locate a Web page within a set of Web pages except where the Web Page is the result of, or a step in, a process. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	All web pages outside of a process step can be located in more than one way

2.4.6	Headings and Labels: Headings and labels describe topic or purpose. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	All headings and labels have descriptive text
2.4.7	Focus Visible: Any keyboard operable user interface has a mode of operation where the keyboard focus indicator is visible. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	We provide keyboard focus indicators on all pages that require user input
2.4.8	Location: Information about the user's location within a set of Web pages is available. (Level AAA)			
2.4.9	Link Purpose (Link Only): A mechanism is available to allow the purpose of each link to be identified from link text alone, except where the purpose of the link would be ambiguous to users in general. (Level AAA)			
2.4.10	Section Headings: Section headings are used to organize the content. (Level AAA)			

Principle 3: Understandable - Information and the operation of user interface must be understandable.

Standard	Description	Apply Yes/No	Meets Yes/No	Comments
<i>Guideline 3.1 Readable: Make text content readable and understandable.</i>				
3.1.1	Language of Page: The default human language of each Web page can be programmatically determined. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Language can be determined programatically
3.1.2	Language of Parts: The human language of each passage or phrase in the content can be programmatically determined except for proper names, technical terms, words of indeterminate language, and words or phrases that have become part of the vernacular of the immediately surrounding text. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	Currently on English language is supported and can be programmatically determined
3.1.3	Unusual Words: A mechanism is available for identifying specific definitions of words or phrases used in an unusual or restricted way, including idioms and jargon. (Level AAA)			
3.1.4	Abbreviations: A mechanism for identifying the expanded form or meaning of abbreviations is available. (Level AAA)			
3.1.5	Reading Level: When text requires reading ability more advanced than the lower secondary education level after removal of proper names and titles, supplemental content, or a version that does not require reading ability more advanced than the lower secondary education level, is available. (Level AAA)			
3.1.6	Pronunciation: A mechanism is available for identifying specific pronunciation of words where meaning of the words, in context, is ambiguous without knowing the pronunciation. (Level AAA)			
<i>Guideline 3.2 Predictable: Make Web pages appear and operate in predictable ways.</i>				

3.2.1	On Focus: When any component receives focus, it does not initiate a change of context. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Focus does not initiate a change of context
3.2.2	On Input: Changing the setting of any user interface component does not automatically cause a change of context unless the user has been advised of the behavior before using the component. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Changing the setting in our user interface does not change context
3.2.3	Consistent Navigation: Navigational mechanisms that are repeated on multiple Web pages within a set of Web pages occur in the same relative order each time they are repeated, unless a change is initiated by the user. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	Navigational mechanisms occur in the same relative order
3.2.4	Consistent Identification: Components that have the same functionality within a set of Web pages are identified consistently. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	Components are consistently identified
3.2.5	Change on Request: Changes of context are initiated only by user request or a mechanism is available to turn off such changes. (Level AAA)			
<i>Guideline 3.3 Input Assistance: Help users avoid and correct mistakes.</i>				
3.3.1	Error Identification: If an input error is automatically detected, the item that is in error is identified and the error is described to the user in text. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Errors are identified and described
3.3.2	Labels or Instructions: Labels or instructions are provided when content requires user input. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	Labels or instructions are provided for all user input fields
3.3.3	Error Suggestion: If an input error is automatically detected and suggestions for correction are known, then the suggestions are provided to the user, unless it would jeopardize the security or purpose of the content. (Level AA)	Yes	Yes	Suggestions are provided when security is not jeopardized
3.3.4	Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data): For Web pages that cause legal commitments or financial transactions for the user to occur, that modify or delete user-controllable data in data storage systems, or that submit user test responses, at least one of the following is true: (Level AA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reversible: Submissions are reversible. • Checked: Data entered by the user is checked for input errors and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them. • Confirmed: A mechanism is available for reviewing, confirming, and correcting information before finalizing the submission. 	Yes	Yes	Error prevention is present for all pages that have legal or financial implications.

3.3.5	Help: Context-sensitive help is available. (Level AAA)			
3.3.6	<p>Error Prevention (All): For Web pages that require the user to submit information, at least one of the following is true: (Level AAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reversible: Submissions are reversible. • Checked: Data entered by the user is checked for input errors and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them. • Confirmed: A mechanism is available for reviewing, confirming, and correcting information before finalizing the submission. 			

Principle 4: Robust - Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies.

Standard	Description	Apply Yes/No	Meets Yes/No	Comments
<i>Guideline 4.1 Compatible: Maximize compatibility with current and future user agents, including assistive technologies.</i>				
4.1.1	Parsing: In content implemented using markup languages, elements have complete start and end tags, elements are nested according to their specifications, elements do not contain duplicate attributes, and any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	We follow best practices in design/development and correct any issues identified by the above mentioned audit checker
4.1.2	Name, Role, Value: For all user interface components (including but not limited to: form elements, links and components generated by scripts), the name and role can be programmatically determined; states, properties, and values that can be set by the user can be programmatically set; and notification of changes to these items is available to user agents, including assistive technologies. (Level A)	Yes	Yes	All name, role, values can be programmatically determined and set with notifications available.