

# WCAG 2.1 Guidelines Overview: Digital Resource Compliance

## **Note about this document:**

This document only presents the top-level Success Criteria with a very brief overview as to what is the subject of that Success Criteria.

## **Exceptions:**

*Just a reminder that the Access Board specifies the following EXCEPTIONS: Non-Web documents shall not be required to conform to the following four WCAG 2.0 Success Criteria (WCAG 2.1, when adopted by the Access Board, may also exclude additional Success Criteria):*

- 2.4.1 Bypass Blocks
- 2.4.5 Multiple Ways
- 3.2.3 Consistent Navigation
- 3.2.4 Consistent Identification

## **Perceivable**

- **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.
- **Guideline 1.2** – Time-based Media: Provide Alternatives for time-based media.
  - The purpose of this guideline is to provide access to time-based and synchronized media.
  - This includes media that is:
    - audio-only
    - video-only
    - audio-video
    - audio and/or video combined with interaction
- **Guideline 1.3** – Adaptable: Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure.
  - Heading tags, tables

- Reading order/navigation, instructions not related to visual or auditory clues
- **Guideline 1.4** – Distinguishable: Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background.
  - Color, controls, contrast
  - Text readability at different zoom levels
  - Text, not images of text

## **Operable**

- **Guideline 2.1** – Keyboard Accessible: Make all functionality available from a keyboard.
  - Page functionality, shortcut keys that don't conflict with browser or screen reader shortcuts
  - No keyboard trap to one page element, keyboard access to all navigable page elements
  - Keyboard or Assistive technologies
- **Guideline 2.2** – Enough Time: Provide users enough time to read and use content.
  - Adjustable time limits, turn off, or extend – exception for real-time events
  - Automatic content functions can be paused, stopped, or hidden
- **Guideline 2.3** – Seizures: Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures.
  - No page content flashes more than 3 times a minute
- **Guideline 2.4** – Navigable: Provide ways to help users navigate, find content, and determine where they are.
  - Bypass link to skip page elements that are repeated across pages, proper heading structure that can be used, proper titling of all used frames, page has descriptive and informative page title
  - Logical and intuitive navigational order to links, form elements, etc.
  - Link purpose can easily be determined through context or link text
  - Multiple ways (at least 2) to find other pages on the site
  - Page headings and labels for forms and interactive elements are informative
  - Current keyboard focus is apparent

## ***Understandable***

- **Guideline 3.1** – Readable: Make text content readable and understandable.
  - Page language identifiable, changes in language identified
- **Guideline 3.2** – Predictable: Make web pages appear and operate in predictable ways.
  - On focus, page element doesn't substantially change, spawn pop-up window, change of keyboard focus or anything else that might confuse the user
  - On information input or control interaction, page element doesn't substantially change, spawn pop-up window, change of keyboard focus or anything else that might confuse the user
  - Navigation and functional elements are consistent when repeated on web pages throughout the site
- **Guideline 3.3** – Input Assistance: Help users avoid and correct mistakes.
  - Form labels that require a specific format, value, or length will provide this information
  - Interactive elements have sufficient instructions, labels, or cues
  - If an input error is detected, suggestions for fixing the error are provided in a timely and accessible manner
  - Legal, financial, or test data changes must be reversible, verified, or confirmed.

## ***Robust***

- **Guideline 4.1** – Compatible: Maximize compatibility with current and future user agents, including assistive technologies.
  - Significant HTML/XHTML validation/parsing errors are avoided
  - Markup is used in a way that facilitates accessibility.