



PDF Redaction: Addendum for the PDF Reference, sixth edition, version 1.7

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Redaction annotations provide a mechanism for the first step in the redaction process (content identification). This allows content to be marked for redaction in a non-destructive way, thus enabling a review process for evaluating potential redactions prior to removing the specified content.

Redaction annotations must provide enough information to be used in the second phase of the redaction process (content removal). This phase is application-specific and requires the viewer application to remove all content identified by the redaction annotation, as well as the annotation itself.

Viewer applications that support redaction annotations must provide a mechanism for applying content removal, and they must remove all traces of the specified content. For example, if a portion of an image is contained in a redaction region, that portion of the image data must be destroyed; it is insufficient to use clipping or image masks to hide that data. Such viewer applications must also be diligent in their consideration of all content that can exist in a PDF document, including XML Forms Architecture (XFA) content and Extensible Metadata Platform (XMP) content. (See implementation note [98](#).)

Table 1. Additional entries specific to a redaction annotation

KEY	TYPE	VALUE
Subtype	name	(Required) The type of annotation that this dictionary describes; must be Redact for a redaction annotation.
QuadPoints	array	(Optional) An array of 8 x n numbers specifying the coordinates of n quadrilaterals in default user space, as described in Table 8.26 for text markup annotations. If present, these quadrilaterals denote the content region that is intended to be removed. If this entry is not present, the Rect entry denotes the content region that is intended to be removed.
IC	array	(Optional) An array of three numbers in the range 0.0 to 1.0 specifying the components, in the DeviceRGB color space, of the interior color with which to fill the redacted region after the affected content has been removed. If this entry is absent, the interior of the redaction region is left transparent. This entry is ignored if the RO entry is present.
RO	stream	(Optional) A form XObject specifying the overlay appearance for this redaction annotation. After this redaction is applied and the affected content has been removed, the overlay appearance should be drawn such that its origin lines up with the lower-left corner of the annotation rectangle. This form XObject is not necessarily related to other annotation appearances, and may or may not be present in the AP dictionary. This entry takes precedence over the IC , OverlayText , DA , and Q entries.
OverlayText	text string	(Optional) A text string specifying the overlay text that should be drawn over the redacted region after the affected content has been removed. This entry is ignored if the RO entry is present.
Repeat	boolean	(Optional) If true , then the text specified by OverlayText should be repeated to fill the redacted region after the affected content has been removed. This entry is ignored if the RO entry is present. Default value: false .