

Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act

15.1 - Provide natively accessible downloadable documents whenever possible.

What:

Downloadable documents are often provided in formats such as Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF), Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, etc. Each document format has its own accessibility issues and may or may not provide appropriate techniques to address accessibility. A document is considered natively accessible if it follows the accessibility techniques for its format.

Why:

Because non-HTML documents cannot implement HTML accessibility techniques, they must be accessible in and of themselves. If essential content or functionality is presented in a downloadable document that is not accessible, it will not be usable by individuals with disabilities.

How:

Check with the manufacturer and/or publisher of the format of a downloadable document to determine if and how it can be made accessible. If accessibility techniques exist, ensure that the downloadable document fully implements these techniques and meets the functional performance criteria defined in these standards.

Note: See Adobe's Accessibility Resource Center (<http://www.adobe.com/accessibility>) for information about PDF accessibility.

Ref:

n/a

15.2 - If a downloadable document cannot be made natively accessible, provide an accessible alternative that includes the same content and functionality.

What:

If a downloadable document cannot be made natively accessible, it may be possible to provide both the original document and an equivalent accessible alternative.

Why:

By providing both the original and accessible versions, the same content and functionality can be available to all users.

How:

Wherever a link is provided to an inaccessible document, also provide a link to an accessible version, preferably in HTML format. Make sure that the information and functionality is completely equivalent and up-to-date. Be sure to consider whether the inaccessible version is actually necessary. If an accessible alternative cannot be provided electronically, provide information on how to obtain an alternate format (e.g., large print, Braille, audio recording) in a timely manner.

Ref:

WCAG 1.0 11.1, 11.4; WCAG 2.0 1.1.1; 508 k