Web **Accessibility** Standards that Apply to Mobile Applications

Mobile Apps (including mobile web apps) are generally covered by the same standards for access by people with disabilities that apply to non-mobile software and web applications. Applicable U.S. laws such as the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA), Section 508, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) apply in different ways. The following standards apply to each U.S. law listed below. It should be noted that WCAG 2 guidelines and Section 508 standards are a logical starting point for mobile app accessibility under CVAA.

1. Section 508 Standards for Electronic and Information Technology (from the US Access Board)

The standards are divided in four subparts: General, Technical Standards, Functional Performance Criteria, and Information, Documentation, and Support. A full read of all the standards can be found at<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards/section-508-standards>

For the purposes of time and long documentations, a few of the technical standards are listed below.

* 1194.21 Software applications and operating systems.

· When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.

· Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.

· Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.

· Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.

· Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.

* 1194.22 Web-based intranet and internet information and applications.

· Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.

· Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.

· Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.

· Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation.

* 1194.23 Telecommunications products.

· Telecommunications products which include voice communication functionality shall support all commonly used cross-manufacturer non-proprietary standard TTY signal protocols.

· If the telecommunications product allows a user to adjust the receive volume, a function shall be provided to automatically reset the volume to the default level after every use.

2. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0

Source:<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>

WCAG 2.0 guideline (standards) include;

* Perceivable

· 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.

· Provide alternatives for time-based media.

· Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background.

· Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure.

* Operable

· Provide users enough time to read and use content.

· Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures.

· Provide ways to help users navigate, find content, and determine where they are.

* Understandable

· Make text content readable and understandable.

· Help users avoid and correct mistakes.

· Make Web pages appear and operate in predictable ways.

* Robust

· Maximize compatibility with current and future user agents, including assistive technologies.