

Meeting Web Accessibility Guidelines (Section 508/ WCAG 2.0)

CHOOSING A WEB CONFORMANCE GUIDELINE



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FRONT-END UX ARCHITECT/ SENIOR ACCESSIBILITY LEAD

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Overview



Official Conformance Guidelines

Section 508

**Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
(WCAG) 2.0**

Compare and Contrast

Which to choose?



Official Conformance Guidelines



Section 508



Section 508

1986 Amendment to Rehabilitation Act of 1973, updated in 1998 and expected to be refreshed soon



Section 508

Targeting websites developed or used by the federal government



Section 508

More information available at [*www.section508.gov*](http://www.section508.gov)



Web Conformance Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)



WCAG 2.0

Published in 2008 by the WCAG Working Group (WCAG WG), which is part of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)



WCAG 2.0

61 total criteria organized as 12 guidelines under 4 principles – *Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, Robust* (POUR)



WCAG 2.0: Perceivable

Users must be able to perceive the information being presented



WCAG 2.0: Operable

Users must be able to operate the interface



WCAG 2.0: Understandable

Users must be able to understand the information as well as the operation of the user interface



WCAG 2.0: Robust

Users must be able to access the content as technologies advance



WCAG 2.0

Each guideline has 3 levels of conformance – **Level A**, **Level AA**, and **Level AAA**



WCAG 2.0 Levels of Conformance

Level A

Most basic of web
accessibility features

Level AA

Biggest and most
common barriers

Level AAA

Highest level of
accessibility



WCAG 2.0

More information available at

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/intro/wcag.php>



Section 508 vs. WCAG 2.0



Which to choose?



WCAG 2.0 Level AA



Section 508 vs WCAG 2.0

Section 508

Last updated in 1998

Limited to federal agencies, federally funded, or under contract by a federal agency

22 requirements

WCAG 2.0

Last updated in 2008

Global acceptance

12 guidelines with 38 criteria (Level A/AA)



Meeting WCAG 2.0 Level
AA covers all of Section
508



Section 508 refresh is
expected to require
conformance to WCAG 2.0
Level AA



WCAG 2.0 Level AA

