

# Meeting Web Accessibility Guidelines (Section 508/ WCAG 2.1)

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## CHOOSING A WEB CONFORMANCE GUIDELINE



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# Overview



Official Conformance Guidelines

Section 508

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines  
(WCAG) 2.1

Compare and Contrast

Which to Choose?



# Web Conformance Guidelines



**Accessible to people with disabilities**  
**Protection from discrimination lawsuits**  
**Better Search Engine Optimization**  
**Greater overall usability**  
**Future proof for yourself**



# Official Conformance Guidelines

**Section 508**  
**(United States)**

**WCAG 2.1**  
**(World Wide Web Consortium)**



# Section 508

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# Section 508

1986 Amendment to Rehabilitation Act of 1973, updated in 2017



# 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)

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# WCAG 2.1

Published in 2018 by the WCAG Working Group (WCAG WG), which is part of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)



# WCAG 2.1

**78 total criteria** organized as 13 guidelines under 4 principles – *Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, Robust* (POUR)



# WCAG 2.1: Perceivable

Users must be able to perceive the information being presented



# WCAG 2.1: Operable

Users must be able to operate the interface



# WCAG 2.1: Understandable

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



# WCAG 2.1: Robust

Users must be able to access the content as technologies advance



# WCAG 2.1

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





# WCAG 2.1 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 2.1

More information available at

*<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>*



# Section 508 vs. WCAG 2.1

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Which to choose?



# WCAG 2.1 Level AA



# Section 508 vs. WCAG 2.1

## Section 508

Last updated in 2017

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

## WCAG 2.1

Last updated in 2018

Global acceptance



Meeting WCAG 2.1 Level AA  
covers all of Section 508



Section 508 refresh is  
expected to require  
conformance to WCAG 2.1  
Level AA





# WCAG 2.1 Level AA

