



508c Accessibility Guide

For more information on how HBP can provide support for 508c publications, contact:

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What is Section 508c?

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act to require federal agencies to make their information and communication technology (ICT) accessible to people with disabilities.

Section 508c was enacted to eliminate barriers, open new opportunities for people with disabilities and encourage development of technologies to help achieve these goals.

Who Does this Apply to?

- All federal agencies
- Universities that receive federal funding
- Contractors producing documents for federal agencies
- Anyone benefitting from federal dollars or being employed by federal dollars

What Needs to be Compliant?

All digital content, including:

- Websites and web applications
- Mobile apps
- Word documents
- Powerpoint presentations
- Excel files
- PDF files

Why Does Accessibility Matter?

- 2010 U.S. Census – nearly **19%** of Americans can be classified as having a disability.
- This includes impairments from birth, by accidents or via old age.
- Being able to access content greatly improves quality of life and is critical to career success.



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Types of Impairment



VISUAL

Blindness, low vision or color-blindness



HEARING

Deafness or hard of hearing



MOTOR

Inability to use a mouse or limited fine motor control



COGNITIVE

Learning disabilities or inability to remember or focus on large amounts of information

Basic Requirements for 508c Compliance

- A document structure that allows screen readers to read headings, text and exhibits **in the right order**.
- High contrast text. Resizable text. Avoiding small body copy fonts.
- Alternate text for any information presented visually, such as...
 - Images
 - Videos
 - Graphs
 - Flow diagrams
 - Graphics

Sample Document Structure

- Flow of content is usually set up in InDesign using **articles panel**.

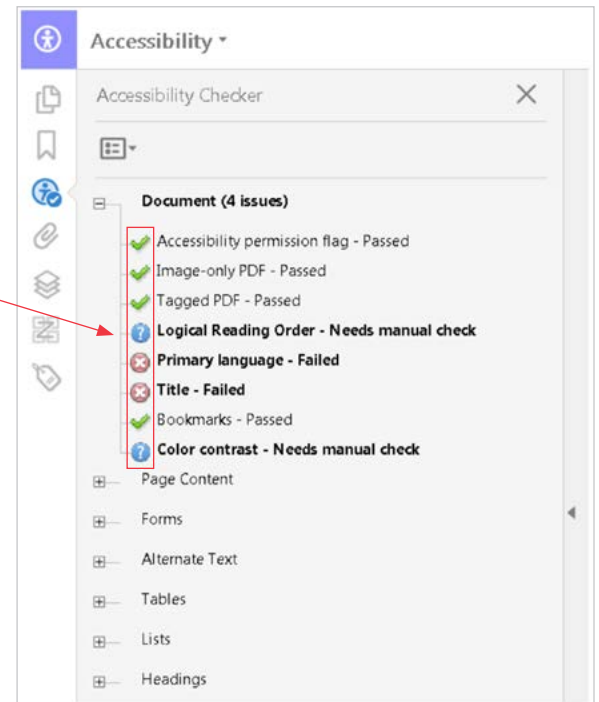
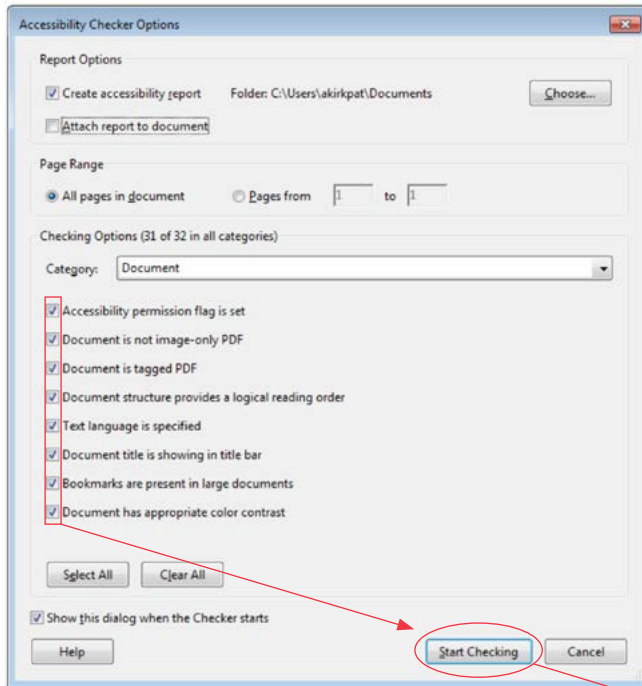


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Accessibility Checker

- Acrobat Pro features an Accessibility command to perform a thorough check for many characteristics of accessible PDFs, such as the use of alternative text on images, the presence of tags, document language, and fonts that can be mapped reliably to Unicode text.



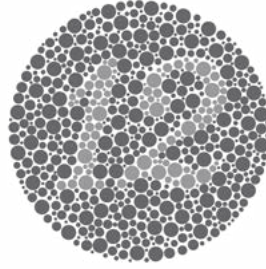
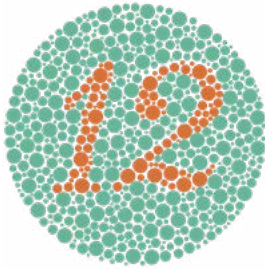
- See <https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/acrobat/using-acrobat-pro-accessibility-checker.html> for more information.

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Use of High Contrast Text

- Low contrast text is difficult to read for color-blind viewers.

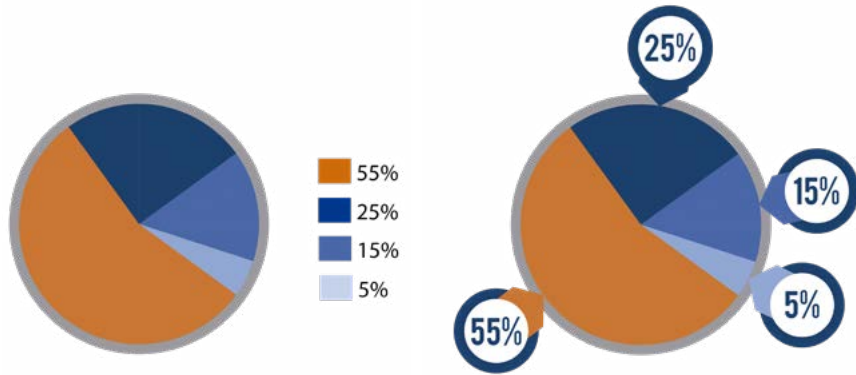


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Use of Data or Patterns

- Avoid using color alone to convey information. Patterns or data on chart would solve this issue.



Popular Screen Readers

- JAWS for Windows
- Window Eyes
- NVDA: non visual desktop access
- Voice-Over for IOS/Apple

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