

OpenText Compliance Brief - Accessibility

Accessibility Laws and Standards

North America

Section 508 of U.S. Rehabilitation Act

Section 508 mandates that U.S. Federal Government agencies procure, develop, use and maintain Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) in formats accessible to individuals with disabilities. Private-sector federal contractors and vendors must also comply with Section 508 in order to do business with federal agencies, or to deliver federally funded programs or services (such as Medicare/Medicaid).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA states that government agencies, public accommodations, commercial facilities and transportation organizations must take reasonable steps to provide access to services. Title II of the ADA applies to state and local governments, whereas Title III applies to commercial organizations. The imminent Title III Amendment defines the internet and many places on the web as public accommodations, requiring affected organizations to provide accessible websites and web content, including web-delivered documents.

Section 255 of U.S. Telecommunications Act

Section 255 requires telecommunication providers to make products and services, including billing services, accessible. Updates to this Act are anticipated to provide inclusion of modern communication technologies such as the internet.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

The AODA was established to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities in Ontario. Under the AODA, the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) was enacted to mandate both public and private sector organizations to provide accessible communication supports, accessible websites and web content, among other things, with deadlines as per the type and size of organization. The **Human Rights Act** is the national law mandating accommodation in Canada.

International

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

Created by non-profit organization World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the WCAG helps organizations and individuals around the globe develop truly accessible web content. This set of standards and practices recommends that all new accessible web content, including web-delivered communications and documents, should comply with WCAG 2.0, Level AA or higher.

Digital or electronic accessibility is a global issue, and countries around the world have passed legislation to prevent discrimination against individuals with disabilities, such as Australia's Disability Discrimination Act, the Equality Act in England, Scotland and Wales, the Government Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities in Japan and international rules under the United Nations Enable.

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INDUSTRY

Government and Commercial

WHO IS SUBJECT

Federal/national government agencies, local government agencies

Commercial organizations across various industries including Financial Services, Telecommunications, Insurance, Healthcare, Airline

THE OPENTEXT™ SOLUTION

OPENTEXT AUTOMATED OUTPUT ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTION

OpenText's Automated Output Accessibility solution is a unique offering that uses automation to address the demand for a low-cost, fast and simple process for converting large volumes of documents of similar types into WCAG 2.0 AA compliant format such as PDF/UA, braille and large print.

This software-based solution is cost-effective, highly scalable and accurate, and dramatically reduces the amount of time required to deliver accessible content to customers.

- *Supports compliance with accessibility legislation and guidelines (WCAG 2.0)*
- *Helps avoid expensive lawsuits as a result of non-compliance*
- *Creates greater satisfaction and loyalty within existing customer base*
- *Supports opportunities to do business with a previously underserved segment of the population*
- *Enables enterprises to demonstrate social responsibility*
- *Saves costs and time associated with delivering accessible content*