

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) for Regulations.gov

Date: 12-18-15

Name of Product: Regulations.gov

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template Summary Table

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems	Supported	See Table 1 below for more information.
Section 1194.22 Web-Based Internet Information and Applications	Supported	See Table 2 below for more information.
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products	Not applicable	The Regulations.gov user interface contains no phone-based elements.
Section 1194.24 Video and Multimedia Products	Supported	See Table 3 below for more information.
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	Not applicable	Regulations.gov does not make use of kiosks or other self-contained, closed products.
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	Not applicable	Contract requirements for the eRulemaking Program do not include desktop and portable computers, so these criteria are not applicable.
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria	Supported (with minor exceptions)	See Table 4 below for more information.
Section 1194.41 Documentation and Support	Supported (with minor exceptions)	See Table 5 below for more information.

Table 1. Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) 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.	Supported	Regulations.gov uses keyboard access to a programs' controls and features, a person who cannot use a mouse or other pointing device will still be able to run the application.
(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility	Supported	Regulations.gov is a web-based application that does not disrupt other applications and/or operating systems on a machine.

features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.		
(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.	Supported	Regulations.gov uses HTML markup to allow the focus of the screen to be clearly identified for Assistive Technology. Users can tab between elements in the application. There are some cases where the elements are not targetable and the highlighting on selected elements is not clear. See 1194.22.
(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.	Supported	Regulations.gov makes use of specific HTML markup to support Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image is also available in text. See 1194.22.
(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.	Supported	All images used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements have consistent labels and meanings throughout the Regulations.gov application.
(f) 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.	Not Applicable	Regulations.gov is a web-based application that is subject to the web-browser's built-in functions.
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	Supported	Regulations.gov is a web-based application that uses style sheets but does not override any operating system level user preferences.
(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.	Not Applicable	Regulations.gov does not use animation.
(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	Supported	Regulations.gov does not use color coding as the only means to convey information.
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.	Not Applicable	Regulations.gov is a web-based application; color and contrast settings are as provided by the user's web browser.
(k) 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.	Not Applicable	Regulations.gov does not use flashing or blinking text.
(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supported	Regulations.gov uses HTML markup to support the use of Assistive Technology Field elements and functionality required for completion and submission of the form is properly labeled. See 1194.22.

Table 2. Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).	Supported	All non-text elements have a text equivalent. All images that are used to communicate content have a meaningful ALT attribute. All decorative or blank IMG elements have an empty ALT attribute.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov does not contain any multimedia presentations.

(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	Supported	All information that is communicated with color is also communicated with text. In sorted tables, both color and indicative arrows are used to show sorting order. Required fields are indicated by colored text describing the field as such - color is not the only indicator.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supported	Regulations.gov uses a style sheet but operates fully without it. The user is able to disable or override the style sheet.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov does not use server-side image maps.
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov does not use client-side image maps.
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Not Supported	Not all row and column headers are identified for the Search results data table, but Regulations.gov defaults to the List view. Some Federal Register documents include tables. Because this information is provided by the Office of the Federal Register in an official form, we are unable to update row and column headers.
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	Not Supported	Every effort is being made by developers to achieve compliance of this provision. Not all row and column headers are identified for the Search results data table, but Regulations.gov defaults to the List view.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation.	Not applicable	The website does not use frames.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Not applicable	The website does not contain flashing or flickering text or images.
(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.	Not applicable	The website does not offer a text-only page and strives to make all aspects accessible by default.
(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.	Supported	Regulations.gov follows W3C standards and utilizes ARIA to enhance its scripted interface elements. In addition, Regulations.gov makes use of modern browser functionality for Assistance Technology.
(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in, or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with 1194.21(a) through (l).	Supported	When a plug-in is required, a link to the free download site for that plug-in is provided.
(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supported	All Regulations.gov forms are designed to work with Assistive Technology.
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Supported	Each screen that has an array of navigation links or menu bars at the top has a link to skip-to-content at the top of the screen that is exposed to Assistive Technology.

(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	Not Applicable	Regulations.gov does not use timed responses.
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Table 3. Section 1194.24 Video and Multimedia Products

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) All analog television displays 13 inches and larger, and computer equipment that includes analog television receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals. As soon as practicable, but not later than July 1, 2002, widescreen digital television (DTV) displays measuring at least 7.8 inches vertically, DTV sets with conventional displays measuring at least 13 inches vertically, and stand-alone DTV tuners, whether or not they are marketed with display screens, and computer equipment that includes DTV receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov is a web application and is not subject to this criterion.
(b) Television tuners, including tuner cards for use in computers, shall be equipped with secondary audio program playback circuitry.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov is a web application and is not subject to this criterion.
(c) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain speech or other audio information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be open or closed captioned.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov does not contain any multimedia presentations.
(d) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain visual information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be audio described.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov does not contain any multimedia presentations.
(e) Display or presentation of alternate text presentation or audio descriptions shall be user-selectable unless permanent.	Not applicable	Regulations.gov does not contain any multimedia presentations.

Table 4. Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	Supported (with minor exceptions)	Regulations.gov is a web-based application and modern COTS Assistive Technology can be used by the user to meet this requirement. Regulations.gov supports modern COTS assistive technology products. Older versions of browsers and COTS assistive technology products may not be supported.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	Supported	Regulations.gov supports modern screen reader products and utilizes browser functionality to provide enlarged text.
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be	Not Applicable	Hearing is not required to use this application.

provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided		
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	Not Applicable	This application does not make use of audio information.
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	Not Applicable	Speech is not required to use this application.
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	Supported	Regulations.gov is a web-based application and modern COTS Assistive Technology can be used by the user to meet this requirement. Regulations.gov supports modern COTS assistive technology products. Older versions of browsers and COTS assistive technology products may not be supported.

Table 5. Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge	Supported	Application Support is provided via FAQ, Glossary, and training instructions. How to Use Regulations.gov Alternative instructions can be provided via telephone and or email.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	Supported	Description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products are available on our Accessibility Statement, but can be provided in alternate formats upon request.
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supported	Support is provided via telephone and email.