# Section 508 Checklist

If you are unsure of how to ensure your digital assets conform with the Section 508 standards or how to interpret the individual requirements:

* Contact us at <https://tpgi.com/contact/>
* Call us at +1 (877)-775-9474

## Need more help?

If you’re looking for a quick first step to assess your Section 508 conformance levels, you can sign up for a [free website accessibility scan](https://www.tpgi.com/free-website-accessibility-scan/), which will identify machine detectable WCAG conformance issues on your website. It’s the easiest way to see how your content measures up to WCAG 2.0 or 2.1.

## What Is Section 508?

* Section 508 is an amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, most recently updated in 2017.
* The Section 508 regulation includes specific accessibility standards for computer hardware, mobile phones, software, electronic content including documents, websites and multimedia, phone systems, copiers, and more. The standards provide a framework to ensure that ICT products and services can be accessible and interoperate with assistive technology solutions such as voice control, screen readers, and screen magnifiers used by persons with disabilities.
* Whenever the US federal government develops, procures, maintains, or uses information and communications technology (ICT), Section 508 requires the government to provide comparable access to persons with or without disabilities.
* For electronic content to be considered conformant with the Section 508 standards, it must meet Level A and Level AA Success Criteria and Conformance Requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), version 2.0. Additional Section 508 criteria apply to hardware, software, content creation tools, and their related documentation and support services.
* Outside of the federal government, US entities who mandate Section 508 include state and local governments, schools and universities, organizations receiving federal funding, and technology providers for all of these.

## Why Is Section 508 Important?

* As much as 20% of the world population are people who have disabilities.
* For people with disabilities inaccessible information and communication technology creates often insurmountable barriers to everyday life activities such as shopping, employment, education, participation in government services, and more.
* Litigation based on inaccessibility can be expensive and not being selected for purchase by Federal and other customers can be opportunities missed.

## What Should I Do?

If you design, develop, integrate, sell, or maintain information and communications technology (ICT) you have a part to play in ensuring accessibility and Section 508 conformance.

The following are steps you can take:

* Make accessibility a priority within your organization.
* Identify content and technologies you develop, integrate, or sell, that you would like to make available for a wide range of US buyers and organizations.
* [Audit your electronic content and ICT](https://www.tpgi.com/accessibility-solutions/accessibility-conformance/) for Section 508 conformance.
* Use the [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)](https://www.tpgi.com/vpat/) to document your level of Section 508 conformance.
* Get [training on how to create accessible Section 508 conforming ICT](https://www.tpgi.com/accessibility-solutions/training/).
* [Integrate accessibility into all phases](https://www.tpgi.com/accessibility-solutions/training/accessibility-training-modules/) of your ICT processes.
* Prioritize remediation of accessibility gaps and [iteratively improve your ICT to become Section 508 conforming](https://www.tpgi.com/a-starter-guide-for-improving-digital-accessibility/).
* Regularly [measure your organization’s accessibility maturity](https://www.tpgi.com/the-accessibility-maturity-lifecycle/) and prioritize efforts as needed.

## Benefits of Section 508 Standards

* Increased customer satisfaction
* Increased sales to federal and other US customers
* Doing the right thing