

WCAG 2.1 AA Compliance Checklist

Principle 1 – Perceivable

GUIDELINE 1.1 – PERCEIVABLE

- Provide text alternatives for assets.

GUIDELINE 1.2 – TIME-BASED MEDIA

- Provide transcripts for all audio content.
- Provide captions for all video content (live and prerecorded).
- Provide descriptive narration for video with important visual information.

GUIDELINE 1.3 – ADAPTABLE

- Ensure content can be presented in different ways (e.g., a simpler layout) without losing information.
- Identify Input Purpose.

GUIDELINE 1.4 – DISTINGUISHABLE

- Ensure sufficient color contrast.
- Do not rely solely on color to convey information.
- Allow users to resize and space text without loss of content or functionality - even on mobile.
- Provide a mechanism to pause, stop, or hide any moving, blinking, or scrolling content that lasts longer than 5 seconds.
- Follow Content on Hover or Focus guidelines.
- Don't use images of text where text will work.

Please note: checklist items are purposefully shortened to keep this checklist short. For a full explanation of each Principle / Guideline, please click the corresponding links.



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Principle 2 – Operable

GUIDELINE 2.1 – KEYBOARD ACCESSIBLE

- Ensure all functionalities are accessible via a keyboard (i.e., no mouse required).
- Ensure keyboard focus indicators are visible and clear.

If single-key shortcuts exist, there must be a way to turn them off, change them, or make them harder to press by mistake.

GUIDELINE 2.2 – ENOUGH TIME

- If time limits are set, provide users with the ability to extend or turn off the time limit.
- User must be able to pause, hide, or stop moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information,

GUIDELINE 2.3 – SEIZURES AND PHYSICAL REACTIONS

- Do not include content that flashes more than three times per second.

GUIDELINE 2.4 – NAVIGABLE

- Provide clear navigation mechanisms (e.g., breadcrumbs, menus, skip blocks).
- Ensure each page has a descriptive title. Ensure link text is descriptive (e.g., avoid "Click here").
- Provide multiple ways to access different pages (search, navigation menus, etc.).
- Ensure that focus order is logical and intuitive.

GUIDELINE 2.5 – INPUT MODALITIES

- All functionality must be single pointer & must be easily cancelled.
- Label interface components can be motion actuated.



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Principle 3 – Understandable

GUIDELINE 3.1 – READABLE

- Ensure the language of each page is indicated within the code.
- Ensure that text content is readable and understandable, using simple and concise language.

GUIDELINE 3.2 – PREDICTABLE

- Ensure consistent navigation across all pages, including focus and on input settings.
- Ensure that interactive elements behave predictably (e.g., links open in the same tab unless stated otherwise).

GUIDELINE 3.3 – INPUT ASSISTANCE

- Provide clear labels and instructions for form fields.
- Identify errors.
- If an error occurs, provide suggestions for correction.
- Ensure error messages are accessible and easy to understand.
- Ensure transactions (Legal, Financial, Data) are reversible, checked, or confirmed prior to submission.



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Principle 4 – Robust

GUIDELINE 4.1 – COMPATIBLE

- Code must be clean, well-formed, and error free.
- Ensure interactive elements are labelled as to what they are called, what they do, and what state they are in.
- Use proper HTML structure, including headings (<h1> to <h6>), lists, and other semantic elements.



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Additional Considerations

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS - FORMS

- Ensure all form fields have associated labels and that these labels are correctly linked to the form fields (e.g., using the `for` attribute).
- Provide feedback for form submission errors and allow users to easily correct them.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS - TOUCH TARGETS

- Ensure that touch targets (like buttons and links) are large enough to be easily activated (at least 44x44 pixels).

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS - RESPONSIVE DESIGN

- Ensure the site is responsive and works well on mobile devices.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS - SKIP LINKS

- Provide a "skip to content" link at the top of pages for keyboard users to bypass repetitive navigation.

Tools to Verify WCAG 2.1 Compliance:

- **WAVE (Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool):** Provides visual feedback about the accessibility of your web content.
- **axe Accessibility Checker:** Browser extension for auditing accessibility issues.
- **Lighthouse:** Google's tool for checking accessibility (built into Chrome DevTools).
- **UserWay:** Accessibility widget for ongoing monitoring and adjustments.

Following this checklist will help ensure your website meets WCAG 2.1 AA standards, creating a more inclusive experience for all users.

