

Introduction to 508 Compliance

What is 508 Compliance?

In 1998 the US Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act to require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. **Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, to make available new opportunities for people with disabilities, and to encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals.** The law applies to all Federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. **Under Section 508 (29 U.S.C. § 794d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others.**

Does it apply to me?

If you receive federal funding, then you must be 508 compliant! Section 508 requires that all Federal information that is accessible electronically must be accessible for those with disabilities. This information must be accessible in a variety of ways, which are specific to each disability.

How do I know if I am 508 Compliant?

Use the web links below for checklists put together by the VA.

Microsoft Word

http://www.section508.va.gov/docs/word_checklist.pdf

Microsoft PowerPoint

http://www.section508.va.gov/docs/ppt_checklist.pdf

Microsoft Excel

http://www.section508.va.gov/docs/excel_checklist.pdf

Adobe Acrobat Professional

http://www.section508.va.gov/docs/adobe_checklist.pdf