

STATE OF ALABAMA

Information Technology Standard

STANDARD 530S2-00: UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY

Just as environmental obstacles can inhibit individuals with certain disabilities, Internet use can also present obstacles for persons with certain disabilities. In recognition of those individuals with visual, physical, or developmental disabilities, the State of Alabama has adopted a policy to make government information accessible to all. To ensure equal access to electronic and information technologies, the State of Alabama has developed the following set of standards for web page design.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this standard is to advise agencies on the use of the minimum requirements for online accessibility for all State of Alabama web sites that comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended for the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

SCOPE:

These requirements apply to all Executive Branch agencies, boards, and commissions except those exempt under The Code of Alabama 1975 (Title 41 Chapter 4 Article 11). Specifically, these requirements apply to the use of the primary alabama.gov or secondary state.al.us domain names.

REQUIREMENTS:

Every graphic image shall have an "alt" tag and a short description that is intuitive to the user. If a graphic image is used as a navigation element, it shall contain a text description and direction that is intuitive to the user. Decorative graphics, such as bullets, shall be set with an "alt" tag of <empty> as to not impede screen readers.

For every graphic element that uses an image map, alternative text of the hyperlink shall be provided.

The site shall have descriptive, intuitive text links and avoid the use of vague references such as "click," "here," "link," or "this."

An alternative form of access shall be made available for online forms, such as an e-mail address or phone number.

The use of frames shall be avoided since they cannot be read intelligently by screen readers, create navigation problems, and are not supported by all browsers.

Multiple browser testing shall be conducted on current versions of Firefox, Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, Safari and Lynx.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information Technology Policy 530: Web Development

http://cybersecurity.alabama.gov/documents/Policy_530_Web_Development.pdf

The Section 508 Web Site is an excellent source for general information, standards, evaluation, events, and resources surrounding Section 508, which will impact electronic and information technology on the Web.

<http://www.section508.gov/>

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended for the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 - The content of this document directly relates to the Federal government and any public or private industry contracting with the Federal government.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/508law.html>

Enforcing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance - The Department of Justice handles complaints and enforcement.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/enforce.htm>

Title II, Section 508 speaks directly to state, local governments and all other public entities. This highlights page provides a concise overview, abbreviated information on specific chapters that must comply with ADA standards and information about the complaint and enforcement process.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/t2ht95.htm>

The Web Accessibility Checklist - From the W3C, this checklist covers all three priority levels of compliance and is much more in depth.

<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/full-checklist.html>

The Software Accessibility Checklist from the Department of Justice

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/archive/oldsoftware.html>

These "Quick Tips" introduce some key concepts of accessible Web design.

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/References/QuickTips/>

By Authority of the Office of IT Planning, Standards, and Compliance

DOCUMENT HISTORY:

Version	Release Date	Comments
530S2-00	09/01/2011	Replaces Standard 1210-00S2; format and number change only