Akorbi
PEOPLE ■ TECHNOLOGY ■ LANGUAGE

ASCA
AFFINITY PARTNER

SECTION 1557 AND 508 DOCUMENT COMPLIANCE

THE FACTS

Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires special provisions for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP), language disabilities and equal access regardless of gender. It applies to all medical entities that receive funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and is not dependent on employee count. Under Section 1557 of the ACA, covered entities are required to post notices of nondiscrimination and taglines that alert LEP individuals to the availability of language assistance services.

Under Section 508 of the ACA, agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others. Section 508 requires that all content, including website content, be accessible to people with disabilities. This also applies to all web applications, web pages and all attached files on the internet.

STANDARDS OF COMPLIANCE

PDF/Universal Accessibility (PDF/US)

Conformance with PDF/Universal Accessibility (PDF/US) ensures accessibility for people with disabilities who use assistive technologies to navigate and read electronic content.

A PDF/UA document is a PDF file that contains specific content in its infrastructure to make its content as accessible as possible to users that require assistance to access the content, primarily using "screen readers" that allow a sight-impaired user to navigate a document as it is read aloud. Simply put, PDF/UA remediation ensures that the PDF format isn't the source of accessibility problems.

Low and High Volume PDF Accessibility Testing, Repair and Remediation.
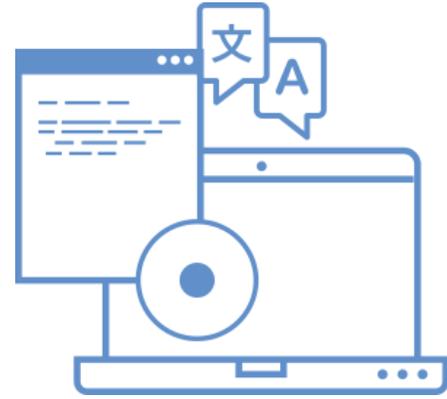
The primary requirement for an accessible, and therefore compliant, PDF document is that the tag structure fully represents the visual information provided by the document itself. The process to determine this requires the remediator to review each page in the document to ensure that it conforms to all the accessibility requirements and modify the tag structure of the page when required to ensure compliance.

HOW AKORBI HELPS

To Maintain Compliance, Akorbi Will Ensure:

- Complete tagging of "real content" in logical reading order. The tags used describe what the content is (for example, a heading, and the order of that content within the document). This guides the screen reader and facilitates navigation through the document.
- Tags correctly represent the document's semantic structures (headings, lists, tables, etc.). Tables have tags for their column and row headings so that the user knows what the values within the table represent. Forms are electronically fillable while using adaptive technologies, allowing the user to independently complete them.
- Meaningful graphics include alternative text descriptions so that the user knows what each graphical element is.
- Security settings allow assistive technology access to the content.
- Fonts are embedded, and text is mapped to Unicode.

A protocol has been developed that defines 136 attributes a PDF/UA document will contain. The PDF Accessibility Checker implements 31 standard checkpoints and 136 failure conditions against PDF/UA.

- The remediator runs the documents through the checker, as well as performs a manual review process. The report generated will show if the document passed or failed.
- If errors are found, they are fixed and the documents are rechecked.
- The successfully remediated document and the remediation reports are delivered to the submitter.