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ADA Compliance Checklist

Digital accessibility compliance verification framework

Prepared by: AccessGuard

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Standards: ADA Title III, WCAG 2.2 AA, Section 508

Disclaimer: This checklist supports ADA compliance efforts but is not legal advice. Consult qualified counsel for specific legal requirements.

ADA Compliance Checklist

Table of Contents

[Back to TOC](#)

- Legal Context - 1. Perceivable Information - 1.1 Text Alternatives - 1.2 Time-based Media - 1.3 Adaptable Content - 1.4 Distinguishable Content - 2. Operable Interface - 2.1 Keyboard Accessible - 2.2 Enough Time - 2.3 Seizures and Physical Reactions - 2.4 Navigable - 2.5 Input Modalities - 3. Understandable Information - 3.1 Readable - 3.2 Predictable - 3.3 Input Assistance - 4. Robust Implementation - 4.1 Compatible - 5. Testing & Documentation - Automated Testing - Manual Testing - Documentation - 6. Remediation Priority - Critical (Immediate) - High (30 days) - Medium (90 days) - 7. Ongoing Compliance - Enforcement & Legal Considerations - Sign-off

Use this comprehensive checklist to verify digital accessibility compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III and related regulations.

Legal Context

[Back to TOC](#)

ADA Title III requires places of public accommodation to provide equal access to goods and services, including digital platforms. The **Department of Justice (DOJ)** and courts have consistently interpreted this to include websites and mobile applications.

Technical Standard: WCAG 2.0/2.1 Level AA (DOJ guidance and industry standard)

1. Perceivable Information

[Back to TOC](#)

1.1 Text Alternatives

- ☐ All images have appropriate alt text
- ☐ Decorative images use alt=""
- ☐ Complex graphics have long descriptions
- ☐ Icons have accessible names
- ☐ Audio/video content has captions or transcripts

1.2 Time-based Media

- ☐ Videos have synchronized captions
- ☐ Audio-only content has transcripts
- ☐ Media players have accessible controls
- ☐ Caption quality is accurate and synchronized

1.3 Adaptable Content

- ☐ Content can be presented without losing information
- ☐ Heading hierarchy is logical (H1 → H2 → H3)
- ☐ Form fields are properly labeled
- ☐ Tables have headers (<th>) and scope attributes
- ☐ Lists use semantic HTML (,)

1.4 Distinguishable Content

- ☐ Text contrast ratio meets WCAG AA (4.5:1 for normal text, 3:1 for large text)
- ☐ Color is not the only means of conveying information
- ☐ Text can be resized up to 200% without loss of functionality
- ☐ Images of text are avoided (except logos)
- ☐ No content flashes more than 3 times per second

2. Operable Interface

[Back to TOC](#)

2.1 Keyboard Accessible

- ☐ All functionality is keyboard accessible
- ☐ No keyboard traps

- ☐ Focus order is logical
- ☐ Focus indicators are visible
- ☐ Skip links are provided for main content

2.2 Enough Time

- ☐ Time limits can be turned off, adjusted, or extended
- ☐ Auto-updating content can be paused, stopped, or hidden
- ☐ No automatic timeouts without warning

2.3 Seizures and Physical Reactions

- ☐ No content flashes more than 3 times per second
- ☐ Motion animations can be disabled (prefers-reduced-motion)

2.4 Navigable

- ☐ Multiple ways to find pages (navigation, search, sitemap)
- ☐ Page titles are descriptive and unique
- ☐ Link text is descriptive (not "click here")
- ☐ Headings and labels are descriptive
- ☐ Focus order is logical

2.5 Input Modalities

- ☐ All functionality is available via keyboard
- ☐ Touch targets are at least 44×44 pixels
- ☐ Gestures have keyboard alternatives

3. Understandable Information

[Back to TOC](#)

3.1 Readable

- ☐ Language is identified in HTML (lang attribute)
- ☐ Abbreviations are defined
- ☐ Unusual words are explained
- ☐ Reading level is appropriate for the audience

3.2 Predictable

- ☐ Navigation is consistent across pages
- ☐ Components with the same functionality are identified consistently
- ☐ Changes of context are initiated only by user request
- ☐ No unexpected pop-ups or redirects

3.3 Input Assistance

- ☐ Errors are identified and described
- ☐ Labels or instructions are provided for inputs
- ☐ Error suggestions are provided
- ☐ Error prevention (reversible, confirmed, checked)

4. Robust Implementation

[Back to TOC](#)

4.1 Compatible

- ☐ Valid HTML markup
- ☐ Proper use of ARIA attributes
- ☐ Custom components have accessible names, roles, and states
- ☐ Status messages are announced to assistive technologies

5. Testing & Documentation

[Back to TOC](#)

Automated Testing

- ☐ Axe DevTools or similar automated scanner used
- ☐ Lighthouse accessibility audit run
- ☐ Critical issues identified and documented

Manual Testing

- ☐ Keyboard-only navigation tested
- ☐ Screen reader testing (NVDA, JAWS, VoiceOver)

- ☐ Zoom testing (200% and 400%)
- ☐ Color contrast verified with tools

Documentation

- ☐ Accessibility statement published
- ☐ Known issues documented with remediation plans
- ☐ Feedback mechanism provided
- ☐ Remediation timeline established

6. Remediation Priority

[Back to TOC](#)

Critical (Immediate)

- ☐ Keyboard traps
- ☐ Missing alt text on primary images
- ☐ Focus indicators removed
- ☐ Form fields without labels

High (30 days)

- ☐ Contrast failures
- ☐ Missing ARIA labels on custom components
- ☐ Heading structure issues
- ☐ Modal accessibility

Medium (90 days)

- ☐ Link text improvements
- ☐ Caption quality
- ☐ Skip link implementation
- ☐ Color coding alternatives

7. Ongoing Compliance

[Back to TOC](#)

- ☐ Accessibility testing integrated into development workflow
- ☐ Automated checks in CI/CD pipeline
- ☐ Regular manual audits scheduled
- ☐ Training provided to development team
- ☐ Accessibility statement reviewed quarterly

Enforcement & Legal Considerations

[Back to TOC](#)

DOJ Enforcement: Department of Justice can investigate complaints and seek injunctive relief and civil penalties.

Private Lawsuits: Individuals can file lawsuits seeking injunctive relief and attorneys' fees.

Penalties: Up to \$75,000 for first violation, \$150,000 for subsequent violations.

Best Practice: Maintain documentation of accessibility efforts, testing results, and remediation activities.

Sign-off

[Back to TOC](#)

Reviewed By: _____ **Date:** _____

Technical Lead: _____ **Date:** _____

Legal Review: _____ **Date:** _____

Next Review Date: _____