# Web Accessibility Laws & Policies



## Disclaimer

The policy links on this page are compiled as a resource by the [World Wide Web Consortium’s](http://www.w3.org/) (W3C) [Web Accessibility Initiative](http://www.w3.org/WAI) (WAI) [Education and Outreach Working Group](http://www.w3.org/WAI/EO) (EOWG). This page is not a comprehensive resource for all applicable laws and policies for Web accessibility. The information on this page is not legal advice. If you have questions about the applicability of the laws to specific situations, consult with legal authorities in the appropriate jurisdiction.

## Contents

Disclaimer

Status and Updates

Introduction

Law & Policy Overview

Laws & Policies by Country

 Australia

 Australian States

 Canada

 Canadian Provinces

 China

 Denmark

 European Union

Finland

 France

 Germany

Hong Kong

 India

 Israel

 Italy

 Japan

 New Zealand

 Portugal

 Spain

 Switzerland

 United Kingdom

 United States of America

 U.S. States

## Status and Updates

This page was updated on DD Month YYYY and will be updated on a regular basis as new information is received. If you know of new or changed laws or policies that are not listed here, or if any corrections are needed, please contact us via the [Submit Updates to Web Accessibility Policies](https://www.w3.org/WAI/Policy/updates.html) page.

## Introduction

The Web’s pervasive nature and growing importance in the everyday lives of citizens worldwide has led to changes in the application of existing laws as well as the development of national and regional laws, policies and standards to ensure online information and service delivery is accessible to people with disabilities.

The Web Policy Overview table provides a quick and sortable reference to help you compare and contrast the various policies used throughout the world. More details are also available for each country in the sections below the table and can be linked to through the table of contents or through country links provided in the overview table.

[Developing Organizational Policies on Web Accessibility](http://www.w3.org/WAI/impl/pol) addresses issues which frequently arise when establishing policies on Web accessibility which include:

* simple and comprehensive sample policy statements
* conformance levels for websites as well as web related software
* defining the scope, milestones, and monitoring processes for web accessibility

## Terms used on this page

Law – Law that has completed the legislation process, and goes into effect as the law of the land.

Legislation – A law that is in the process of becoming a law, commonly referred to as proposed legislation.

Regulation – A rule created in support of laws that specify the requirements that must be met to comply with the law.

Policy – Outlines the goals of a government ministry or agency as well as the methods and principles to achieve those goals. Policies are not laws, but can lead to the development of laws.

Public sector – Includes government and government-run or owned entities, and entities that receive government funding. Organizations in the public sector do not seek to generate a profit.

Private sector - Businesses and organizations that are not part of the public sector

## Law & Policy Overview Table

The following table provides an overview of country regulations on Web accessibility.

Some features of this table include:

* An updated column to indicate the date the information was added or updated on this page.
* Details such as the type, scope and status as well as what version and level of WCAG is used
* Sortable columns to help you compare and contrast various laws and policies

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Updated | Country  | Law/Legislation Name | Type (Policy, law, legislation, etc.) | Scope | Web only | WCAG Version Used | Status |
| Old page date | Australia | Disability Discrimination Act  | Non-discrimination Law | Public & Private | No | No standard specified | In effect |
| 15 Dec. 2016 | Australia | Voluntary policy | Procurement Policy | Govt. | No | WCAG 2.0 Level AA | Recommendation |
| Old page date | Canada | Canadian Human Rights Act of 1977 | Non-discrimination Law | Public & Private | No | Not used | In effect |
|  | Canada | Policy on Communications and Federal Identity | Policy | Govt. | No | WCAG 2.0 Level AA | In effect |
| 2012 | China | Voluntary policy | Website policy | Govt. | Yes | WCAG 2.0 derivative | Recommendation |
|  | Denmark |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 Dec. 2016 | European Union | Web and Mobile Accessibility Directive | Web Accessibility Law | Public sector | Yes | TBD | Law completed |
| 115 Dec. 2016 | European Union | European Accessibility Act | Market Access Legislation | Public & Private | No | WCAG 2.0 principles | Proposed law |
|  | Finland |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | France | Law N° 2005-102 Article 47 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | France | Order of 29 April 2015 on the general accessibility framework for public administrations |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Germany |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Hong Kong |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | India |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Ireland |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Israel |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Italy |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Japan |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | New Zealand |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Portugal |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Spain |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Switzerland |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | United Kingdom |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Old page date | United States | Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act | Procurement Law | Govt. | No | WCAG 1.0 derivative | In effect |
| Update | United States | Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act | Procurement Law | Govt. | No | WCAG 2.0 Level AA  | Proposed regulation |
|  | United States | 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act | Accessibility Law | Public & Private | No | Not used | In effect |

Back to top

## Laws & Policies by Country

### Australia

**Last Updated:** 12 Dec. 2016 – Fixed broken links under the DDA, added new procurement policy announced by the Minister of Finance.

**Related page:** [Australian states](https://www.w3.org/WAI/Policy/AU-States.html)

#### Non-discrimination Law: [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00763) (DDA)

**Responsible Ministry:** [Attorney General’s Department](https://www.ag.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx); [Australian Human Rights Commission](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/)

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Public & Private

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version used:** None

**Standard used:** None

**Relevant Documents:**

* [About Disability Rights](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/about-disability-rights) – Overview and guide for the Disability Discrimination Act
* [Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy](http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/wcag-2-implementation/) – The Australian Government’s adoption and implementation of Web content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 (WCAG 2.0)
* [Digital Service Standard accessibility requirement](https://www.dto.gov.au/standard/9-make-it-accessible/) – Guide to the standard used by Australian Government agencies for digital services.

#### Procurement Policy: Procurement Standard Guidance

**Responsible Ministry:** Minister of Finance

**Status:** Recommendation

**Scope:** Government

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** WCAG 2.0 Level AA

**Standard used:** Suggests using [EN 301 549](http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_en/301500_301599/301549/01.01.01_60/en_301549v010101p.pdf), which includes WCAG 2.0 verbatim without modifications for Web content, and WCAG 2.0 as interpreted by WCAG2ICT for non-Web documentation and software.

**Relevant Documents:**

* Announcement from Minister of Finance to recommend use EN 301 549 standard as ICT procurement standard

Back to top

## Canada

**Last updated:** 11 Jan. 2017 – Updated to latest version of the law and added links to the policy which contains Web accessibility requirements.

**Related page:** [CA Provinces](https://w3c.github.io/WAI/Policy/CA-Provinces.html)

*Non-discrimination Law:* [Canadian Human Rights Act](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/h-6/FullText.html)

**Responsible Ministry:** [Minister of Justice](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/); [Canadian Human Rights Commission](http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/)

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Public & Private

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** None

**Standard used:** None

*Policy:* [Policy on Communications and Federal Identity](https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=30683)

**Responsible Ministry:** [Treasury Board](https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat.html)

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Government

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** WCAG 2.0 Level AA

**Standard used:** [Standard on Web Accessibility](https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=23601)

**Relevant documents:**

* + [Guidance on implementing the standard on web accessibility](https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/hgw-cgf/oversight-surveillance/communications/ws-nw/wa-aw-guid-eng.asp)

## China

**Last updated:** 11 Jan. 2017 – Added China information.

*Recommendation:* Voluntary Web Standard

**Responsible Ministry:** [China Academy of Telecommunication Research](http://english.caict.ac/) (CATR)

**Status:** Voluntary

**Scope:** Government

**Web only:** Yes

**WCAG Version Used:** WCAG 2.0 derivative

**Standard used:** [China Web Accessibility Standard YD1761-2008](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjJmqDUqb7RAhUK8YMKHboFAl0QFggpMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.chinesestandard.net%2FPDF-English-Translation%2FYDT1761-2008.html&usg=AFQjCNF5MTc5NhMZzSi81kLs9MoA3Yak)

## European Union

**Last updated:** 11 Jan. 2017 – Added new law as well as legislation that is in progress.

*Law:* Web Accessibility Directive (Link not available yet)

**Responsible Ministry:** [European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)

**Status:** Approved, not in effect

**Scope:** Government

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** TBD

**Standard used:** Not specified yet

**Relevant documents:**

* [The adoption of a directive on the accessibility of the sector bodies’ websites and mobile apps](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/adoption-directive-accessibility-sector-bodies-websites-and-mobile-apps)

*Proposed Law:* European Accessibility Act (Link not available yet)

**Responsible Ministry:** [European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)

**Status:** Draft

**Scope:** Public & Private

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** WCAG 2.0 derivative

**Standard used:** None specified yet

**Relevant documents:**

* + [Guidance on implementing the standard on web accessibility](https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/hgw-cgf/oversight-surveillance/communications/ws-nw/wa-aw-guid-eng.asp)

## France

**Last updated:** 11 Jan. 2017 – Added new law and government web accessibility policy.

*Non-Discrimination Law:* [Law N° 2005-102 Article 47](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000809647&dateTexte=)

**Responsible Ministry:** Ministry of Social Affairs

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Government

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** None

**Standard used:** None

*Policy:* [Order of 29 April 2015 on the general accessibility framework for public administrations](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000030540064&dateTexte=&categorieLien=id)

**Responsible Ministry:** Ministry of Social Affairs

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Government

**Web only:** Yes

**WCAG Version Used:** None

**Standard used:** [Référentiel Général d’Accessibilité des Administrations (RGAA) Version 3 2016](http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/referentiel/) (French web accessibility guidelines)

## Germany

**Last updated:** 11 Jan. 2017 –

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## Hong Kong

**Last updated:**

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## India

**Last updated:** 11 Jan. 2017 –

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## Ireland

**Last updated:** 11 Jan. 2017 –

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## Israel

**Last updated:**

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## Italy

**Last updated:**

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## New Zealand

**Last updated:**

*Law:*

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## Portugal

**Last updated:**

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

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**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## Spain

**Last updated:**

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## Switzerland

**Last updated:**

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**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## United Kingdom

**Last updated:**

*Law:*

**Responsible Ministry:**

**Status:**

**Scope:**

**Web only:**

**WCAG Version Used:**

**Standard used:**

**Relevant documents:**

## United States of America

**Last updated:** 12 Jan. 2017 – Fixed broken links, updated with latest on the ICT Refresh rule.

*Procurement Law:* [Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended](https://www.section508.gov/section-508-of-the-rehabilitation-act)

**Responsible Ministry:** [General Services Administration](https://www.gsa.gov/) (GSA); [U.S. Access Board](https://www.access-board.gov/); [Department of Justice](https://www.justice.gov/)

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Government

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** WCAG 1.0 derivative

**Standard used:** [Section 508 Standards for Electronic and Information Technology](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards/section-508-standards)

**Relevant documents:**

* + - [GSA Section 508 website](https://www.section508.gov/)
		- GSA’s [Quick Reference Guide to Section 508 Requirements and Standards](https://section508.gov/content/quick-reference-guide)
		- U.S. Access Board’s [Guide to the Section 508 Standards](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards/guide-to-the-section-508-standards)
		- [ICT Refresh](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-ict-refresh) and [Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Final Standards and Guidelines final rule](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-ict-refresh/final-rule), references WCAG 2.0 Level AA, but is not yet in effect.

*Non-Discrimination Law:* [Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended](https://www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/sec504.htm)

**Responsible Ministry:**  [Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov/); [Department of Justice](https://www.justice.gov/)

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Public & Private

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** WCAG 1.0 derivative

**Standard used:** [Requirements for Accessible Electronic and Information Technology Design V 2.0](https://www2.ed.gov/fund/contract/apply/clibrary/software.html)

*Accessibility Law:* [Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996](https://www.access-board.gov/the-board/laws/telecommunications-act)

**Responsible Ministry:** [Federal Communications Commission](https://www.fcc.gov/); [U.S. Access Board](https://www.access-board.gov/)

**Status:** In effect

**Scope:** Telecommunications

**Web only:** No

**WCAG Version Used:** Not used

**Standard used:** [Telecommunications Act Section 255 Accessibility Guidelines](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-telecommunications-act-guidelines/section-255-guidelines)

**Relevant documents:**

* + - [Telecommunications Access for People with Disabilities](https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-access-people-disabilities)
		- [Guidance on the Telecommunications Act Section 255 Guidelines](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-telecommunications-act-guidelines/guidance-on-the-telecommunications-act-%C2%A7255-guidelines)
		- [ICT Refresh](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-ict-refresh) and [Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Final Standards and Guidelines final rule](https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-ict-refresh/final-rule) which is not in effect.