Policy - A “policy” is any standard, statement, or procedure of general applicability adopted by an organization or entity.

* Public policy - is a government policy made on behalf of the "public." It is oriented toward a goal or desired state, such as the solution of a problem. Policy often precedes law and the ideas from policy inform the formation of laws. A policy is unenforceable but often forms the reasoning behind the creation of a law.
* Organizational policy - policies help guide operations to communicate an organization’s culture, values and philosophy. They cover what employees and customers can expect from the organization. Policies set clear expectations to create consistency, reduce risk, and set high standards for employees. Policy allows leadership to ensure the company communicates all laws and regulations to employees. Plus, it ensures employees both understand the policies and know how these policies apply to their day-to-day jobs.

As an example, companies often have a corporate accessibility policy that requires accessible technologies both internally and externally. However, the policy may not set the standards used, they may leave it to an established organization within the company to do that.

Regulation - A “regulation” is any standard, statement (which may include a policy statement), or procedure of general applicability adopted by an entity or organization (typically government but may extend to other organizations that are required to meet applicable government laws or regulations). A regulation is a rule written that specifies how the ideas of the law are to be implemented and can specify standards, compliance, as well as what and whom the regulation is scoped to apply to.

Compliance – Meeting the requirements put in place by policies or regulations.

Reference:

* [North Carolina State University definitions](https://policies.ncsu.edu/definitions/)
* [Intro to U.S. Law and Policy](https://www.phe.gov/s3/law/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Project Citizen – What is Public Policy?](https://www.civiced.org/project-citizen/what-is-public-policy)
* [UpJourney blog: What is the difference between law, policy and regulation](https://upjourney.com/what-is-the-difference-between-law-policy-and-regulation)
* [Difference between law and policy](http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/politics/difference-between-law-and-policy/)
* [What is the purpose of policies in the workplace?](https://www.powerdms.com/policy-learning-center/what-is-the-purpose-of-policies-in-the-workplace)