

Data Sheet:

Section 508 Compliance



Compliance

Formatta makes it easy to achieve compliance with Section 508 requirements. Forms created with Formatta Designer can be made compliant by setting just one property in the Property Sheet.

Accessibility Templates

For a detailed review of Formatta's Section 508 compliance, see our Voluntary Product Accessibility Template at www.formatta.com.

The template was developed by the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) to "assist Federal contracting officials in making preliminary assessments regarding the availability of commercial Electronic and Information Technology products and services with features that support accessibility."

The template provides a one-to-one comparison between the regulations stated explicitly in Section 508 and Formatta Filler.

Section 508: Eliminating Barriers in Information Technology

Section 508 Requirements

Government agencies are required by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act to make electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. In addition, agencies require software solutions and technologies that were designed with these requirements in mind.

Formatta Compliance With Section 508

Formatta's reader/filler application for end users, Formatta Filler, fully supports Section 508 compliance. Formatta worked directly with several leading federal agencies, including the Department of Education, the General Services Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration, to incorporate support for Section 508 accessibility standards into our product line. Extensive testing with these agencies using third party tools such as JAWS, MAGic, ZoomText and others has helped Formatta to provide the most accessible electronic forms end user application in the market today.

Free to End Users

Formatta Filler is free to end users, including users with disabilities. There are no additional products to buy or special versions of Formatta Filler that cost extra. JAWS Scripting support can be installed automatically when Filler is installed, or it can be installed separately, depending on the needs of the end user.

Formatta fully meets the requirements of Section 508 using in-production technology.

Easy to Use

Formatta makes it easy to achieve compliance with Section 508 requirements for your e-forms because Formatta treats 508 support just like any other property of a field (e.g., bold, font size, etc.). When creating an e-form in Formatta Designer, just enter the desired text relating to a field in the Property Sheet while formatting the field. Then when a 508 user tabs into that field, the text will be vocalized by the screen reader – eliminating the field/label mismatches that can occur with other e-forms products and screen Readers.

About Formatta

Formatta software captures and moves important information, previously trapped on paper forms and paper equivalents, into core business systems quickly and affordably.

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Assistive Technology Support

In addition to screen readers, Formatta supports screen magnification software packages as well. In Formatta Filler, the focus is programmatically exposed to these applications, such as ZoomText or MAGic, making Formatta Filler very easy to use with assistive technologies.

E-Form Compliance

It is crucial to note that with an e-forms solution, compliance of the end user application solves only half of the Section 508 compliance challenge. The e-forms themselves also must meet Section 508 compliance requirements.

Since many assistive technologies rely on relative positioning of objects to determine which text label to read for each field, agencies that adopt other e-forms solutions may have to re-design their e-forms (e.g., move the text labels around) in order to achieve Section 508 compliance. Using Formatta Designer, form authors can directly specify which text label is associated with a specific field, eliminating the potential for error by the assistive technology. This also means there is no need to re-design your paper forms in order to create electronic versions that meet Section 508 compliance requirements (no changes to page layout).

Complex Forms Made Clear

Complex forms can be challenging to convey to users of assistive technologies. A form with tables embedded inside tables or radio buttons in columns can be particularly difficult. In these cases, Formatta BubbleTips can be used by the form author to provide a narrative description of the form structure and content, making the e-form very easy to use with assistive technologies.

With Formatta, there is no need to re-design your forms to achieve Section 508 compliance.

Formatta's industry leading support for assistive technologies makes it quick and easy to convert your existing forms and upgrade them to meet Section 508 requirements. Formatta can even outsource your form conversion and compliance functions.

Section 508 Commitment

Formatta is committed to Section 508 compliance. We have worked with several leading federal agencies, and the sight impaired employees of those agencies. Formatta built 508 accessibility directly into our products, and then incorporated additional suggestions from these federal employees during review and testing. As a result, Formatta works with JAWS, Magic, ZoomText and others to ensure the sight impaired have equal access to Formatta technology.