



## CMS Section 508 Program Tip #7: Forms Overview



This Monthly Tip Series falls under the Program Pillar of Policy and Program Administration.

Much of a user's online experience may include forms. Whether we are entering user name and password to gain access to a site or account, or whether we are filling out a sign-up/application form for car insurance, forms are a major part of using the web. While tips for each part of form interaction will also be available, here we offer the high-level considerations.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

If forms are not accessible, all users with disabilities will be at a disadvantage in not having the independence to complete web tasks.

### WHAT TO DO

1. Ensure all form fields have programmatically associated visible labels.
2. At the point a user encounters a field, all cues and instructions for successfully addressing the field should be provided.
3. Radio controls and checkboxes should be grouped via a field set and legend.
4. Field and page level errors should be provided when errors occur.
5. Provide accessible success messages to denote successful completion of a function.
6. Ensure no focus trap occurs when users tab through the form.
7. Use native HTML and leverage ARIA practices only when necessary.
8. Provide an obvious focus indicator.
9. Do not solely use color as the sole method to convey meaning of form fields.
10. Ensure required fields are indicated as such.
11. All fields must be included in the tab order.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on addressing the compliance requirements for forms, please see our library of tips or visit the [WCAG 2.0 Resource page](#).

#### Disclaimer

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