

# Technology Letter

NUMBER:

DATE ISSUED:

TL 16-06

JULY 2016

SUBJECT:

**Updated IT Accessibility Resource Guide**

REFERENCES:

Statewide Information Management Manual (SIMM) Section 25

State Administrative Manual (SAM) Sections 4819.2 and 4833

Government Code 11135

Technology Letter 15-05 Web Accessibility

Information Technology Letters 09-01, 10-05 and 10-10

## BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Department of Technology, in partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation, issued the IT Accessibility Resource Guide (SIMM Section 25) which includes accessibility standards that Agencies/state entities must use to comply with IT policy. These standards were based on the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 1.0. Although SIMM 25 was effective in providing tools to assist web developers, designers, and content providers to implement accessibility standards, the guide did not align with updated standards that the World Wide Web Consortium released with WCAG 2.0. Additionally, the California State Auditor's Office issued a report on compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Report No. 2014-131) which recommended the Department of Technology specify methods by which state departments should conduct web accessibility testing. As a result of these findings the Department of Technology, in partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation, performed a comprehensive review and update of the IT Accessibility Resource Guide.

State law ([GC § 11135](#)) directs all Agencies/state entities (in developing, procuring, maintaining, or using electronic or information technology, either indirectly or through the use of state funds by other entities) to comply with the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended ([29 U.S.C. Sec. 794d](#)), and regulations implementing that act as set forth in [Part 1194 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#). In requiring compliance with Section 508, GC § 11135 mandates that Electronic and Information Technology<sup>1</sup> (EIT) be accessible to individuals with disabilities. GC § 11135 applies the same requirements to state agencies and employees that Section 508 applies to federal agencies or employees.

Agencies/state entities and contractors working on their behalf are responsible for ensuring that their Agency/state entity public websites are accessible to the general public, and that their internal information technology systems are accessible by state employees with disabilities. [SAM Section 4833](#) includes the IT policy in support of regulations on accessibility in state government IT.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Technology Letter (TL) is to announce:

- Revised SIMM Section 25 IT Accessibility Resource Guide to align with new WCAG 2.0.
- Revised SIMM Section 25 to include standardized web accessibility testing guidelines and methods for conducting accessibility testing on various operating systems, browsers and includes information for assistive technologies.
- Revised SAM Section 4819.2 to include definitions referenced in the resource guide including: (1)

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this policy, "EIT" is limited to IT that is within the scope of authority of the California Department of Technology.

Accessibility/Accessible; (2) Assistive Technology; (3) Computer Accessibility; and (4) Public Facing Applications.

**QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding this Technology Letter should be directed to the Department of Technology, Statewide IT Policy Office at [ITPolicy@state.ca.gov](mailto:ITPolicy@state.ca.gov).

**SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Tong, Director  
California Department of Technology