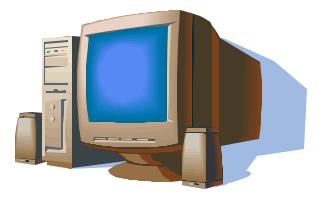
APD ALERT

Buying Accessible Electronic and Information Technology and Complying with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act



The purpose of this Alert is twofold:

- to reiterate the importance of complying with section 508, and
- to provide information on a software program developed by the General Services Administration (GSA) to assist program and acquisition officials in their efforts to comply with Section 508.

GSA developed the "Buy Accessible Wizard" (Wizard) to help information technology and acquisition communities determine if section 508 applies to an electronic and information acquisition. The software is designed to:

- identify which standards apply to the products or services being acquired,
- assist in developing solicitation language,
- initiate market research, and
- document the acquisition to ensure compliance.

Since micro-purchases are no longer exempt from section 508 requirements, the good news for purchase cardholders is that the software ensures that micro-purchases include the appropriate accessibility considerations.

The Wizard is available at <u>www.buyaccessible.gov</u>. As a reminder, GSA provides additional information on section 508 as well as free training on various 508-related subjects on <u>www.section508.gov</u>. Further information and training on accessibility standards is available at <u>www.access-board.gov</u>.

ISSUE DATE: AUGUST 2005

APD ALERT NO. 2005-14