



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION


SUBJECT: Improving the Accessibility of Government Information through Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d)

This memorandum provides an update on recent activities regarding compliance with the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d). On June 3, 2011, the Department of Defense (DoD) published DoD Manual 8400.01-M, "Procedures for Ensuring the Accessibility of Electronic and Information Technology (E&IT) Procured by DoD Organizations," which is available online (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/840001m.pdf>). The Manual provides procedures for the implementation of Section 508 and includes a listing of Websites containing laws, regulations, standards, and guidelines for ensuring that E&IT developed, procured, maintained, and used by DoD enables accessibility for persons with disabilities. In addition, the Manual reinforces Section 7.7 of the Defense Acquisition Guidebook, which provides information to Program Managers for acquiring accessible E&IT.

The Manual supports the July 19, 2010, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum, "Improving the Accessibility of Government Information." The OMB memorandum provides guidance on how to increase awareness, improve agency accountability and accessibility, and enhance the outreach and communication regarding Section 508. It also highlights available tools on the General Services Administration (GSA) Website (<http://www.section508.gov>), such as the "BuyAccessible Wizard," which helps build compliant requirements and solicitations, and the "Quick Links site," which provides sample Section 508 solicitation documents. Acquisition officials should leverage GSA's Section 508 Website for additional assistance with Section 508 compliance and free online training.

The OMB memorandum addresses the GSA effort to review Federal E&IT solicitations, posted on FedBizOpps.gov, for compliance in accordance with the U.S. Access Board Section 508 Standards. The GSA provides OMB quarterly reports containing results of these assessments. When the Department is cited for non-compliant solicitations, our offices will review GSA's findings with the appropriate DoD Component acquisition official, and if the findings prove valid, will provide recommendations on how to improve accessibility performance. In the meantime, DoD Components should continue to review existing procurement and information technology policies and procedures to confirm that the Section 508 standards are appropriately considered and clearly stated when preparing requirements and solicitation documents. Unless an exception in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 39.204 applies, FAR Subpart 39.2 requires that acquisition of E&IT supplies and services must meet the applicable accessibility standards at 36 CFR Part 1194 (Section 508 standards).

Please contact Ms. Susan Pollack, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy), at 703-697-8336 or susan.pollack@osd.mil for procurement policy questions regarding DoD Section 508. Questions regarding DoD Section 508 policy, administration, and implementation are to be directed to Ms. Arleen Oliver, Office of the DoD Chief Information Officer, at 571-372-4428 or arleen.oliver@osd.mil.



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