

<p>CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY</p> <h1>TECHNOLOGY LETTER</h1>	<p>NUMBER: TL 18-05</p>	<p>DATE ISSUED: JULY 2018</p>
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<p>SUBJECT: WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATION</p>	<p>REFERENCES: Government Code § 7405, 11135 and 11546.7 State Administrative Manual (SAM) Sections 4833, 4833.1, 4833.2 and 4833.3 Statewide Information Management Manual (SIMM) Section 25</p>
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BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 434 (Chapter 780, Statutes of 2017) amended Government Code Section § 11546.7 to require, before July 1, 2019 and biennially thereafter, the Director and Chief Information Officer of each Agency/state entity to post on the home page of the Agency/state entity's internet website a signed certification that the Agency/state entity's internet website is in compliance with specified accessibility standards.

The internet is an essential resource for many aspects of people's lives including education, employment, government, commerce, health care, recreation, social interaction, and more. The internet provides an opportunity for unprecedented access to information for people with disabilities, helping overcome barriers to print, audio, and visual media. According to a 2014 Bureau of State Audits report on state government internet website accessibility, 47% of Californians report using the internet to access government services, yet despite the high levels of usage, state websites were not fully accessible.

Similar to laws that govern physical accessibility (e.g. restrooms, parking spaces and signage), current law requires websites to be accessible to people with disabilities. Accessible websites provide greater access to state government, enhancing the ability to search for services, file forms or access content. When information is available in an accessible format, it is significantly easier for people with disabilities to access essential information— in some cases, where there was no access to it before. This policy is intended to increase Agency/state entity compliance with state and federal requirements and provide Agency/state entities with tools and guidelines to help bring their websites in compliance. It is essential that the internet be fully accessible to everyone, providing equal access and equal opportunity to all Californians.

PURPOSE

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

- Before July 1, 2019 and biannually thereafter, each Agency/state entity shall comply with the Website Accessibility Policy.
- New SAM Section 4833.2, outlines the requirements for website accessibility certification.
- New SIMM Section 25C, includes the certification form that Agencies/state entities may use to certify compliance with website accessibility requirements. This certification form is optional, Agencies/state entities have the discretion to develop their own certification to meet specified website accessibility requirements.

- Agencies/state entity Chief Information Officer shall use the Department of Rehabilitation's Accessibility toolkit to determine whether the Agency/state entity's internet website is in compliance with the accessibility standards specified in SAM Section 4833.2.

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Technology Letter should be directed to the Department of Technology, Office of Governmental Affairs at ITPolicy@state.ca.gov.

SIGNATURE

Amy Tong, Director
California Department of Technology

DRAFT

**SAM – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(California Department of Technology)**

WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATION
(New 06/2018)

4833.2

Before July 1, 2019 and biannually thereafter, each Agency/state entity shall post on the home page of the Agency/state entity's internet website a signed certification from the Agency/state entity's Director and Chief Information Officer certifying that they have determined that the Agency/state entity's internet website is in compliance with Government Code Sections 7405 and 11135, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, or a subsequent version, published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium at a minimum Level AA success criteria.

The California Department of Technology (CDT) has adopted the Department of Rehabilitation's Accessibility toolkit to serve as the standard that each Agency/state entity's Chief Information Officer shall use to determine whether the Agency/state entity's internet website is in compliance with the accessibility standards specified above.

To meet the certification requirements of this policy, each Agency/state entity may use the optional Website Accessibility Certification form in SIMM Section 25C or develop an Agency/state entity specific form that satisfies the statutory requirements.

Website Accessibility Certification

California Department of Technology SIMM 25C

June 2018

State Agency or Entity Name

Contact Name/Email

The undersigned certify that, as of [DATE], the internet website of the [AGENCY/STATE ENTITY NAME] is designed, developed and maintained to be in compliance with California Government Code Sections 7405 and 11135 and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, [or the most current version as of the date of certification], published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium at a minimum Level AA success criteria.

Printed Name of CIO

Signature of CIO

Date

Printed Name of Director/Secretary

Signature of Director/Secretary

Date