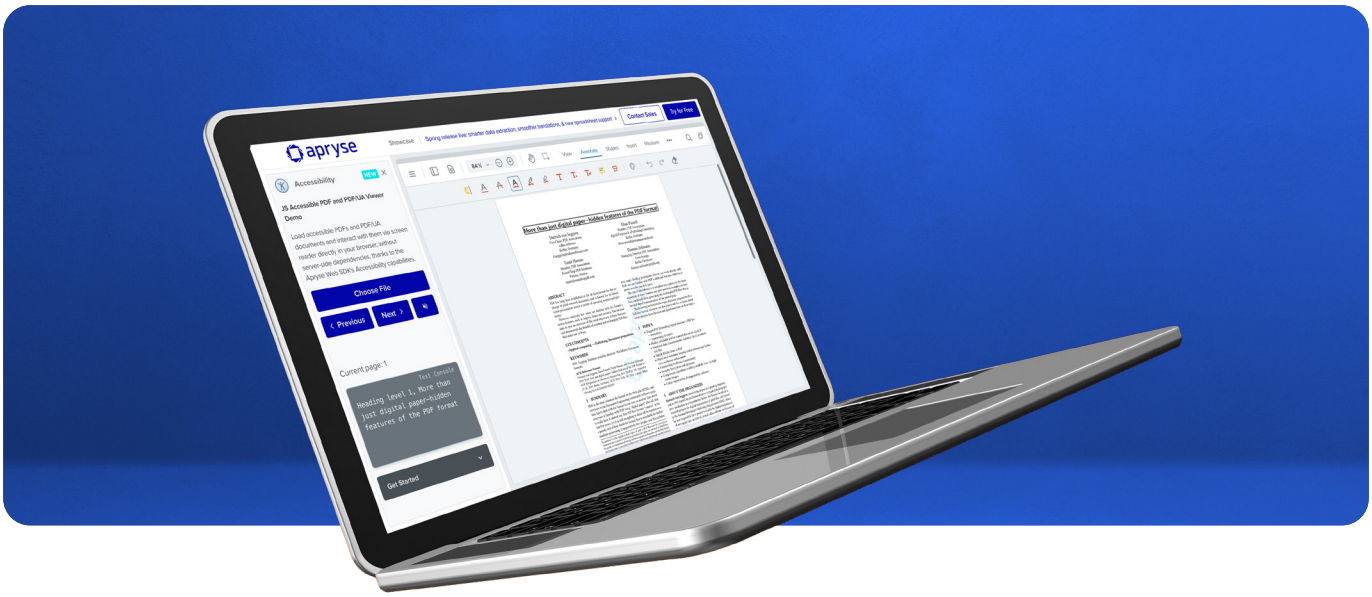
apryse

Mastering Digital Accessibility:

Your Guide to EAA & WCAG Compliance



Contents

The European Accessibility Act, approved in 2019 and effective on June 28, 2025, is not intended to introduce new or stricter accessibility requirements, but rather to establish a common set of rules across the EU. These rules are based on the WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards, which also inform accessibility practices globally.

According to the European Commission, the EAA is designed to improve the functioning of the internal market for accessible products and services by removing barriers created by divergent rules in Member States.

While the act may present temporary compliance challenges for businesses and organizations, the application of consistent rules across the EU will expand opportunities in future, with simpler regulatory requirements.

Most importantly, of course, the EAA will benefit persons with disabilities by providing more accessible products and services, and fewer barriers to accessing resources such as education, jobs and digital tools.

1.3
BILLION

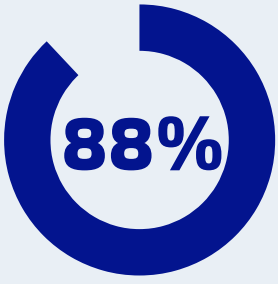
An estimated 1.3 billion people experience significant disability. This represents **16%** of the world's population, or **1 in 6** of us.

In this eBook, we'll overview the requirements of the EAA, how to meet these requirements, and the challenges and opportunities along the way.

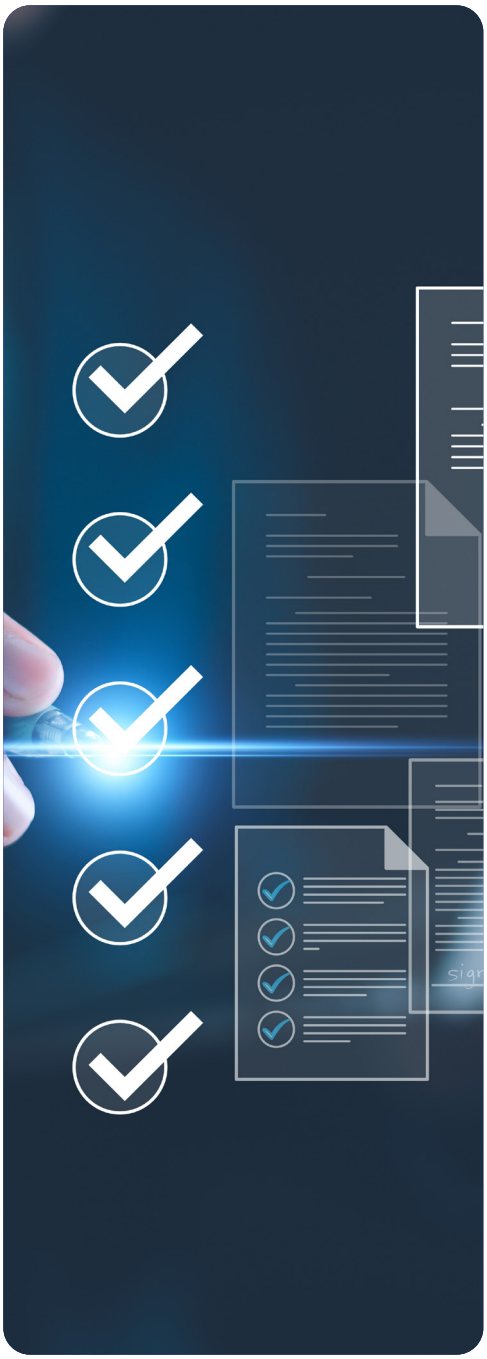
Penalties for Non-Compliance

Failing to comply with the law could result in significant fines and market exclusions. The specific penalties can vary by country within the EU, but they underscore the importance of adhering to these accessibility standards to avoid legal risks and enhance the inclusivity of your digital offerings. Some details on enforcement and penalties can be found in articles 29 and 30 of the act.

EAA compliance may seem daunting if accessibility hasn't been a priority for an organization in the past, but achieving compliance can be straightforward with the right tools. WebViewer is a Javascript document SDK that ensures compliance with the WCAG guidelines. Supporting PDF, Office, CAD, images, videos, and websites, it's fully featured out of the box, delivering exceptional usability and functionality trusted by thousands.



According to research by AccessibilityChecker.org, **88%** of websites in the EU are not fully compliant with web accessibility guidelines.



Does the EAA Apply to My Organization?

The EAA, unlike other historical regulations, will apply to both public and private sector organizations, and applies not only to companies based in Europe but also to non-European companies that offer products or services to consumers within the EU. This means that if your business operates outside the EU but provides digital products or services accessible to EU consumers, you must comply with the EAA accessibility requirements.

Compliance with these standards is essential to avoid penalties and market exclusions, making it a critical consideration for any business targeting the European market.

Products impacted by the EAA include (not an exhaustive list):

- computers and operating systems
- ATMs, ticketing and check-in machines
- smartphones
- TV equipment related to digital television services
- telephony services and related equipment
- access to audio-visual media services such as television broadcast and related consumer equipment
- services related to air, bus, rail and waterborne passenger transport
- banking services
- e-books
- e-commerce

50%

According to Gartner, digital products that fully comply with WCAG 2.0 are expected to have a **50% higher** market performance than their competitors.

Actionable Steps for Organizations

Understand the EAA

The first step to ensuring compliance with the EAA is understanding its scope and requirements. Resources and information can be found on the AccessibleEU website.

Compliance with the EAA requires meeting EN 301 549, the harmonized European digital accessibility standard. This standard incorporates WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards. You can find a checklist for WCAG 2.1 Level AA compliance in this eBook, below.

Assess Current Accessibility

Next, it's important to understand the current strengths and weaknesses of the digital accessibility of your products. Automated audit tools and manual audit processes can be used to evaluate current compliance with WCAG 2.1 standards.

Implement WCAG 2.1 AA Standards

With areas of improvement identified, it's time to make necessary adjustments to text alternatives, keyboard navigation, visual contrast, and screen reader support. WCAG compliance requires that all digital content is perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust.

Leverage WebViewer

With a potentially long list of compliance issues, it may be daunting to plan an approach to resolving every issue. However, leveraging the WebViewer SDK provides plug-and-play WCAG 2.1 Level AA compliant UI for document viewing and processing.

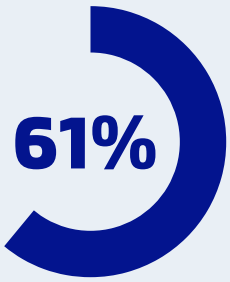
Develop Inclusive Design Practices

After implementing accessibility features to meet compliance requirements, it's important to maintain accessibility standards as you develop products and features into the future. Training teams on accessible development best practices helps ensure future compliance by incorporating accessibility considerations into the design and development process from the start.

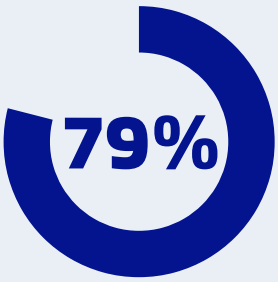
Monitor and Update

To complete these steps, regularly review and update your accessibility practices to stay compliant with evolving standards.

WebViewer is committed to accessibility, and ongoing updates and features will maintain compliance as standards and requirements evolve over time.



61% of users are unlikely to return to a website on mobile if they have trouble browsing it,



and **79%** visit a competitor's site instead.

WCAG Compliance Checklist

For more detailed coverage of WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards, we've included this checklist. The guidelines are based on four principles: Web Content must be perceivable, operable, understandable and robust to accommodate the full range of disabilities and technologies.

Perceivable	
☐	**Non-text Content:** Provide text alternatives for any non-text content.
☐	**Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded):** Provide alternatives for time-based media.
☐	**Captions (Prerecorded):** Provide captions for all prerecorded audio content in synchronized media.
☐	**Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded):** Provide audio descriptions for all prerecorded video content in synchronized media.
☐	**Info and Relationships:** Use proper HTML markup to structure content programmatically accessible.
☐	**Meaningful Sequence:** Present content in a meaningful sequence for readability.
☐	**Use of Color:** Do not use color alone to convey information.
☐	**Contrast (Minimum):** Ensure color contrast ratios meet minimum requirements (4.5:1 for normal text, 3:1 for large text).
☐	**Resize Text:** Text must be resizable up to 200% without loss of content or functionality.
☐	**Images of Text:** Use text rather than images of text, except for decorative purposes.

Operable	
☐	**Keyboard:** Ensure all functionality is operable through a keyboard interface.
☐	**No Keyboard Trap:** Ensure users can navigate away from all content using a keyboard.
☐	**Timing Adjustable:** Provide users enough time to read and use content.
☐	T**hree Flashes or Below Threshold:** Content must not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one second period.
☐	**Bypass Blocks:** Provide a mechanism to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple web pages.
☐	**Page Titled:** Use descriptive and informative page titles.
☐	**Focus Order:** Ensure the focus order preserves meaning and operability.
☐	**Link Purpose (In Context):** The purpose of each link should be clear from the link text alone or from the link text together with its context.
☐	**Multiple Ways:** Provide multiple ways to locate a web page within a set of web pages.
☐	**Headings and Labels:** Use headings and labels to describe the topic or purpose.
☐	**Focus Visible:** Ensure that any keyboard operable user interface has a mode of operation where the keyboard focus indicator is visible.

Understandable	
☐	**Language of Page:** The default human language of each web page can be programmatically determined.
☐	**Language of Parts:** The human language of each passage or phrase in the content can be programmatically determined.
☐	**On Focus:** When any component receives focus, it does not initiate a change of context.
☐	**On Input:** Changing the setting of any user interface component does not automatically cause a change of context.
☐	**Consistent Navigation:** Navigational mechanisms that are repeated on multiple web pages occur in the same relative order each time they are repeated.
☐	**Consistent Identification:** Components that have the same functionality within a set of web pages are identified consistently.
☐	**Error Identification:** If an input error is detected, it is identified and described to the user in text.
☐	**Labels or Instructions:** Labels or instructions are provided when content requires user input.

Robust	
☐	**Parsing:** Ensure that content is parsed correctly by assistive technologies.
☐	**Name, Role, Value:** For all user interface components, the name and role can be programmatically determined; states, properties, and values that can be set by the user can be programmatically set; and notification of changes to these items is available to user agents, including assistive technologies.

Approximately **89%** of EU SMEs are unaware of the EAA requirements, indicating a significant gap in awareness among small and medium-sized enterprises.

WebViewer: JavaScript Document SDK

Compatible with all frameworks and browsers, WebViewer delivers the highest quality rendering, conversion, and document manipulation capabilities through a single, customizable component.

WebViewer supports a range of frameworks including React, Angular and Next.js, all modern browsers, and integrations with major platforms including Salesforce, Appian and SharePoint.

Accessibility Compliance in WebViewer

With WebViewer 11.0, Apryse introduced robust accessibility features that enable seamless navigation through the user interface using keyboard navigation, screen readers, and other assistive tools. Most of these features are permanently enabled to improve the overall accessibility of the application. Additionally, an accessible mode can be selected in configuration options to activate extra accessibility features.

- Annotation and Collaboration
- Redaction
- Digital Signatures
- Page Manipulation
- Form creation and filling
- Document Generation
- Side-by-side comparison
- PDF Text editing
- CAD measurements
- DOCX editing

apryse

Developers can customize the WebViewer UI extensively with out-of-the-box APIs, modular components or by forking our open-source repository on GitHub. Make it your own with complete control over functionality, behavior, and appearance.

01 Choose from a wide range of languages to be used in menus and messages, including all major European languages, Korean, Bahasa Indonesian, Chinese, Thai, Japanese, and more.

02 Reflect your brand and the user experience you want. Build your own one-of-a-kind UI from scratch using the same APIs and rendering engine as the WebViewer UI.

03 Use the rich set of APIs allows seamless interaction with WebViewer's pre-built core features and add-ons to create your own document processing experience.

04 Offer a consistent user experience and UI across devices, for both mobile and desktop applications.

With WebViewer, enhance your application's scalability by leveraging client-side processing, removing the need for server-side infrastructure or third-party services. Enable users to view, edit, and manage documents directly in the browser for a secure, real-time experience.

Apryse SDKs are SOC2 certified and offer comprehensive document security capabilities, including encryption and access control features.

To see how our clients are using WebViewer, read our customer stories on our website.

Success Stories

Try WebViewer Today

Harness the benefits of an accessible experience. By choosing WebViewer SDK for your project, you can ensure your project meets EAA compliance into the future.

Start a trial of WebViewer below or contact us today to begin crafting accessible document experiences.

Contact Sales **Take a Free Trial**

apryse

Connect with Apryse

Stay updated with all things Apryse by following us on: