



Update on Federal Activities to Improve Technology Accessibility

Jonathan Hahm
Senior Attorney Advisor
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

The ADA for State and Local Governments Conference
Atlanta, G.A.
March 14, 2012



Overview

- U.N. Convention on the RPD
- Airline Web and Kiosk Accessibility
- Refresh of the Section 508 Standards
- 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act
- E.O. 13548, Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities
- DOJ's Rulemaking
- DOJ's Section 508 Survey



U.N. Convention on the RPD

- U.N. adopted the Convention on December 13, 2006
- 153 countries have become signatories
 - Canada, U.K., E.U., Australia, S. Korea, Japan, China, Russian Federation
- 110 countries have ratified the convention
- U.S. became a signatory on July 30, 2009



Airline Web and Kiosk Accessibility

- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Air Carrier Access Act (1986)
- NPRM: November 4, 2004
- SNPRM: September 26, 2011
- Public comment period ended: November 25, 2011
- Extension of comment period: January 9, 2012



Section 508 Refresh

- U.S. Access Board
- Section 508 EIT standards effective (2001)
- Refresh process begins (2006 – 2008): TEITAC
- TEITAC report: April 3, 2008
- ANPRM: March 22, 2010
- Public hearings
 - San Diego, CA; March 25, 2010
 - Washington, DC; May 12, 2010
- Public comment period ended: June 21, 2010



Section 508 Refresh (cont.)

- Review comments
- Second ANPRM: December 8, 2011
- Public hearings
 - Washington, DC; January 11, 2012
 - San Diego, CA; March 1, 2012
- Public comment period ended: March 7, 2012



2010 ANPRM vs. 2011 ANPRM

- 100 pages
- 10 chapters
- Cover “official” communications
- either WCAG 2.0 or 508 provisions
- 40 pages
- 6 chapters
- Cover 9 types of content
- WCAG 2.0 only



Communications and Video Accessibility Act

- Web browsers, text messaging, and e-mail on smartphones are fully accessible
- Web-capable cell phones are hearing aid compatible
- Captioning for new television programs shown on the Web
- FCC will need to make regulations



Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

- Become a model employer
- Establish plan for recruitment and hiring
- Designate a senior level agency official
- Ensure accessibility of physical and virtual workspaces
- Deadline to submit plans to OPM: April 11, 2011



DOJ's Rulemaking (ANPRM)

- Web Information and Services
- Movie Captioning and Video Description
- Accessibility of Next Generation 9-1-1
- Equipment and Furniture



Web Accessibility

- Revising Titles II and III of the ADA requirements for web accessibility
- Standards for web accessibility
- Alternatives for web accessibility
- Resources, services, and costs for web accessibility



Captioning and Description

- Revising Title III of the ADA requirements for captioning in movie theaters
- Status of any conversion to digital cinema
- Standards and technologies for captioning and video description
- Costs and benefits of movie captioning and video description



Next Generation 9-1-1

- Revising Title II of the ADA requirements for 9-1-1 centers
- What devices and modes of communication (i.e. text, video, etc.)
- Ensure that 9-1-1 centers can receive direct calls from these devices?



Equipment and Furniture

- Revising Titles II and III of the ADA requirements for equipment and furniture
- Medical equipment and furniture
- Beds in hotels and hospitals
- Lifts
- Interactive kiosks



DOJ's Section 508 Survey

- The Attorney General's Role under Section 508
- Section 508 Survey Outline
- Report to the President and Congress