

# ACS Publications, a Division of the American Chemical Society, Accessibility Conformance Report

## WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

**Name of Product/Version:** <https://pubs.acs.org>

**Report Date:** August 16, 2024

**Product Description:** ACS Publications Website

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**Notes:**

**Evaluation Methods Used:** WCAG 2.2 Level AA

## Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0</a>	Level A (Yes)

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
	Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1</a>	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2</a>	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

## Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can only be used in WCAG Level AAA criteria.

## WCAG 2.x Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).



## Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.1.1 Non-text Content</a> (Level A)	Does not support	Icon fonts and images for journal covers and banners have appropriate alternative text, however, the figures in articles, and on TOC pages, lack detailed article text. Figure captions generally summarize the figures, but all of the numeric values displayed in images are not available as alternative text.
<a href="#">1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include text alternatives, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
<a href="#">1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include captions, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
<a href="#">1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include text alternatives or descriptions, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
<a href="#">1.3.1 Info and Relationships</a> (Level A)	Partially supports	Most form elements have labels, but some are missing. Most headings are in the correct order, but a few pages have headings in the incorrect order.
<a href="#">1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</a> (Level A)	Supports	Each page reads aloud in logical order in a screen reader.
<a href="#">1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</a> (Level A)	Supports	Instructions do not rely upon shape, size, or visual location.
<a href="#">1.4.1 Use of Color</a> (Level A)	Does Not Support	Color alone is used to distinguish links on most pages and links are not underlined. The hyperlinks change color on hover, rather than receive an underline on hover. The scientific figures in some articles use color as the only means of conveying information.
<a href="#">1.4.2 Audio Control</a> (Level A)	Supports	No audio plays automatically

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">2.1.1 Keyboard</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most elements on the website are accessible by keyboard. There are just a few elements that are not accessible by keyboard-only, such as a few form elements under “Refine Search” on the search results page.
<a href="#">2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</a> (Level A)	Supports	No keyboard trap exists
<a href="#">2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Keyboard shortcuts are not used
<a href="#">2.2.1 Timing Adjustable</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	Time limits are not used
<a href="#">2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide</a> (Level A)	Supports	Content does not blink or animate for longer than five seconds
<a href="#">2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	Flashes not used
<a href="#">2.4.1 Bypass Blocks</a> (Level A)	Does not support	Skip navigation links are not provided. Headings are in the correct order on some pages but not on other pages.
<a href="#">2.4.2 Page Titled</a> (Level A)	Supports	Pages have descriptive titles
<a href="#">2.4.3 Focus Order</a> (Level A)	Supports	The navigation order of links, and focus order is intuitive
<a href="#">2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</a> (Level A)	Partially supports	Most links can be understood out of context, but some links have vague link text that cannot be understood out of context. For example, the links to references in articles are read to screen readers as the reference number (e.g. “5”), which may not be understood out of context.
<a href="#">2.5.1 Pointer Gestures</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	No path-based gestures used
<a href="#">2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	The product does not use down-events or up-events
<a href="#">2.5.3 Label in Name</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Icons and buttons have visible or aria-labels to define their function.
<a href="#">2.5.4 Motion Actuation</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Product does not use device motion for any features
<a href="#">3.1.1 Language of Page</a> (Level A)	Supports	Language is defined in HTML
<a href="#">3.2.1 On Focus</a> (Level A)	Supports	Forms are not submitted when buttons receive focus
<a href="#">3.2.2 On Input</a> (Level A)	Supports	Forms have a “submit” buttons that does not execute until activated

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">3.2.6 Consistent Help</a> (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Help and live chat options consistently available across domain in footer
<a href="#">3.3.1 Error Identification</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	The product does not include error detection
<a href="#">3.3.2 Labels or Instructions</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Journal drop-down menu of search field missing aria-label
<a href="#">3.3.7 Redundant Entry</a> (Level A 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	No repeated input fields
<a href="#">4.1.1 Parsing</a> (Level A) WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer ‘Supports’ WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Supports	For WCAG 2.0 and 2.1, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the <a href="#">WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata</a> and the <a href="#">WCAG 2.1 Editorial Errata</a> .
<a href="#">4.1.2 Name, Role, Value</a> (Level A)	Supports	Aria-labels and element names label the purpose

## Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.2.4 Captions (Live)</a> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	The product does not include live video
<a href="#">1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include descriptions or text descriptions, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
<a href="#">1.3.4 Orientation</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Product supports both portrait and landscape layouts on desktop and mobile
<a href="#">1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Product does not ask visitors for personal information that requires auto-complete
<a href="#">1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</a> (Level AA)	Partially supports	Main text on the site meets color contrast requirements. Contrast ratio between links and surrounding content does not meet 3:1 on some pages
<a href="#">1.4.4 Resize text</a> (Level AA)	Supports	All pages a readable and function at a 200% zoom
<a href="#">1.4.5 Images of Text</a> (Level AA)	Partially supports	Most pages use text instead of images of text. However,

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		some articles display equations and data tables as images instead of coding them as text.
<a href="#">1.4.10 Reflow</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	All pages only require scrolling in one direction (vertically) when zoomed in to 400%. Advertisements require scrolling in one dimension (horizontally) when zoomed to 400%.
<a href="#">1.4.11 Non-text Contrast</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Non-text elements have sufficient color contrast.
<a href="#">1.4.12 Text Spacing</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Product typography spacing meets requirements
<a href="#">1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Popovers that cover text can be dismissed by moving the mouse. Popovers that appear on hover stay put until mouse focus is moved away.
<a href="#">2.4.5 Multiple Ways</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Pages can be located through search and navigation menus
<a href="#">2.4.6 Headings and Labels</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Headings and labels are clear and informative
<a href="#">2.4.7 Focus Visible</a> (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Most elements have a visual indicated when keyboard focused. Elements missing include some search controls and nested drop-down elements.
<a href="#">2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum)</a> (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Focused items remain visible when keyboard selected
<a href="#">2.5.7 Dragging Movements</a> (Level AA 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	Product does not have any draggable elements
<a href="#">2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum)</a> (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Most clickable elements are larger than 24x24 pixels. Those that are smaller have at least a 24x24 pixel sized bounding box between other undersized targets
<a href="#">3.1.2 Language of Parts</a> (Level AA)	Supports	English is the only language used
<a href="#">3.2.3 Consistent Navigation</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Navigation elements are consistent on every page
<a href="#">3.2.4 Consistent Identification</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Search box has an aria-label to identify it on every page
<a href="#">3.3.3 Error Suggestion</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Error detection is present in purchase checkout and are identified but do not provide suggestions to correct
<a href="#">3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Purchases provide a mechanism to review, correct, and confirm user details
<a href="#">3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum)</a> (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Copy/paste and password managers supported in authentication method

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">4.1.3 Status Messages</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Status messages are not used

### Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.2.9 Audio-only (Live)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.3.6 Identify Purpose</a> (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.4.8 Visual Presentation</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.2.3 No Timing</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.2.4 Interruptions</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.2.5 Re-authenticating</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.2.6 Timeouts</a> (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.3.2 Three Flashes</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.3.3 Animation from Interactions</a> (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.4.8 Location</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.4.10 Section Headings</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.4.12 Focus Not Obscured (Enhanced)</a> (Level AAA 2.2 only)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.4.13 Focus Appearance</a> (Level AAA 2.2 only)	Not Evaluated	



Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">2.5.5 Target Size</a> (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms</a> (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.1.3 Unusual Words</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.1.4 Abbreviations</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.1.5 Reading Level</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.1.6 Pronunciation</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.2.5 Change on Request</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.3.5 Help</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.3.6 Error Prevention (All)</a> (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
<a href="#">3.3.9 Accessible Authentication (Enhanced)</a> (Level AAA 2.2 only)	Not Evaluated	

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