CMS Section 508 Program Tip #2:
Color Contrast

This Monthly Tip Series falls under the Program Pillar of Testing.

Color contrast carries a "high impact" consideration and thus, should be prioritized during development and/or remediation.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

In order for low vision users to clearly see all content and successfully perform tasks, all text including images of text must meet or exceed color contrast requirements. If lighter lettering is used on a bright background, or dark lettering is used on a dull/dark background, low vision users will be significantly disadvantaged and will be unable to visually consume the information.

WHAT TO DO

1. Use a color contrast testing tool to check for contrast ratios.

2. Verify that normal sized text less than 18 pts/bolded text less than 14 pts has a minimum foreground-to-background contrast ratio of 4.5:1 (4.5 to 1).

3. Verify that larger sized text of 18 pts+/bolded text of 14 pts+ has a minimum foreground-to-background contrast ratio of 3:1 (3 to 1).

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on color contrast and related techniques, please visit the WCAG 2.0, Guideline 1.4.3, Contrast (minimum).