

Accessibility Accountability  
Responsibility  
Xerox and Section 508  
Compliance



# Accessibility Accountability Responsibility

## Xerox and Section 508 Compliance



## Xerox: Meeting the Accessibility Challenge

Xerox has a long, proud tradition of designing products that are accessible to individuals with disabilities. When Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act made accessibility a requirement for all electronic and information technology used by Federal agencies, Xerox was already ahead of the curve. In keeping with the company's long-standing commitment to accessibility, Xerox responded to Section 508 with extraordinary diligence.

### Our Response to Section 508

With the release in February 2000 of the new draft standards detailing the requirements for Section 508 compliance, Xerox immediately appointed a dedicated Section 508 work team. The team drew experts from all relevant sectors including the Business Divisions, Industrial Design and Human Interface, External Affairs, Public Sector Federal Contracts, and Environment, Health and Safety. Their mandate: Develop a rigorous, detailed assessment process, which could be applied to every product Xerox offers. Accessibility requirements are now integrated into the product development process—right from the earliest design phase.

### The Xerox Accessibility Assessment Process

The first step in an assessment of any product's capability to meet the needs of disabled persons is a complete diagnosis of the suite of tasks required to use that product. Because Xerox offers such a wide range of products, the tasks required to use those products vary. From loading documents into a printer to dialing a number on a fax machine, from programming a print job on a user interface to removing a job from a Xerox-supplied output device, the Xerox product development teams defined every task associated with the use of every Xerox product. Xerox's Industrial Design and Human Interface organization then set to work creating guidelines for performing task-based assessments of each Xerox product against Section 508's stringent accessibility requirements.

Xerox's Industrial Design and Human Interface organization then set to work creating guidelines for performing task-based assessments of each Xerox product against Section 508's stringent accessibility requirements. As the rigorous, task-based assessments were performed and documented, a highly detailed evaluation of every Xerox product emerged. New products are assessed on an ongoing basis using the same methodology, providing customers with up-to-date information on the entire Xerox line.

Products are rated Compliant," "Compliant with minor exceptions," or "Compliant with some exceptions." A "Compliant" rating means that the product complies with every applicable Section 508 guideline for general user tasks required to operate that product. Compliance exceptions are summarized on the Xerox Section 508 Web pages, and detailed in the individual product data sheets. This information is valuable not only for evaluating Xerox products, but also for compliance comparisons with competitive products.

### A Long-Term Commitment

Xerox is committed to being the vendor of choice for customers seeking accessible solutions. That means providing customers with detailed, up-to-date accessibility assessments for the full line of Xerox products. It means training our Federal Government sales executives in the intricacies of Section 508. It means participating in an influential Section 508 Task Group organized by the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA). And it means working in partnership with Federal agencies as they transition to Section 508 purchasing criteria. Section 508 product information is available on [www.xerox.com/section508](http://www.xerox.com/section508) in an easy-to-find manner. For information on our task-based Product Assessment Process, find out more at [www.xerox.com/about508](http://www.xerox.com/about508). To find out answers to frequently asked questions: [www.xerox.com/faq508](http://www.xerox.com/faq508). Contact your local Xerox sales representative or call 800-ASK-XEROX.

1973	August 1998	February 2000	January 2001	June 2001	Today
Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the needs of all end users, including people with disabilities.	Congress amends Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act with the Workforce Investment Act. It requires Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. The Access Board is tasked with developing the standards.	Access Board releases the draft standards for Section 508 compliance. Xerox forms Section 508 work team.	Xerox defines guidelines for applying each Section 508 specification to Xerox products.	Section 508 takes effect, requiring Federal contracting officials to purchase the most compliant Section 508 technology. Because of its intensive assessment process, Xerox is ready with the detailed compliance information Federal officials need to choose the most compliant technology available.	Xerox continues to apply the same rigorous assessment process to every new Xerox product. We are actively planning product improvements, and have integrated Section 508 into our product design and development process.

