



## PRACTICES GUIDE

### SECTION 508 COMPLIANCE EXCEPTION

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## Document Purpose

This Practices Guide is a brief document that provides an overview describing the best practices, activities, attributes, and related templates, tools, information, and key terminology of industry-leading project management practices and their accompanying project management templates.

## Background

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Enterprise Performance Life Cycle (EPLC) is a framework to enhance Information Technology (IT) governance through rigorous application of sound investment and project management principles, and industry best practices. The EPLC provides the context for the governance process and describes interdependencies between its project management, investment management, and capital planning components. The EPLC framework establishes an environment in which HHS IT investments and projects consistently achieve successful outcomes that align with Department and Operating Division goals and objectives.

Section 508 Compliance Exception is an activity during the Implementation Phase of EPLC. “Section 508” refers to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), which requires Federal agencies to develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology that is accessible to Federal employees and members of the public with disabilities.

General information on Section 508 Compliance is provided in the Section 508 Compliance Practices Guide included as part of the EPLC artifacts. The Section 508 Compliance Exception Practice also provides information on the documentation required for any exceptions to the Section 508 requirement.

## Practice Overview

Section 508 (29 U.S.C. § 794d) requires Federal agencies to provide employees and members of the public with disabilities access to electronic and information technology that is comparable to the access available to individuals without disabilities. The law applies to all Federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology (EIT).

General information on Section 508 Compliance is provided in the Section 508 Compliance Practices Guide included as part of the EPLC Design Phase artifacts. The Section 508 Compliance Exception Practice can take place during any phase of EPLC where there is an acquisition. It involves an official certification signed by the requesting official and the requesting component’s authorized official stating that this acquisition action meets specific criteria that make it ineligible for Section 508 requirements. The Section 508 Compliance Exception Practice also provides information on the documentation required for any exceptions to the Section 508 requirement.

## Practice Best Practices

For a complete list of Section 508 Compliance information refer to the Section 508 Compliance Practices Guide (Design Phase). Specific information on Section 508 exceptions is included in the Section 508 Policy found at [http://www.hhs.gov/od/508policy/508\\_policy.html](http://www.hhs.gov/od/508policy/508_policy.html), Sections 4.2 and 4.3.