

**COAST GUARD ACCESSIBLE  
SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY  
PROGRAM (ASTP); SECTION 508**



**COMDTINST 5230.60C  
May 2021**



COMDTINST 5230.60C  
26 May 2021

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 5230.60C

Subj: ACCESSIBLE SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (ASTP); SECTION 508

- Ref: (a) The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub.L. 93-112, 87 Stat. 355, at amended through P.L. 114-95, codified as 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.  
 (b) The Communications Act of 1934, Pub.L. 73-416, 48 Stat. 1064, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq.  
 (c) The E-Government Act of 2002, Pub.L 107-347, § 202(d)  
 (d) Federal Records Act of 1950 (as amended), Pub.L. 81-754, 64 Stat. 578, codified as 44 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq.  
 (e) The Plain Writing Act of 2010, Pub.L. 111-274, 124 Stat. 2861, codified in 5 U.S.C. § 301  
 (f) Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (as amended), Pub L. 104-13, 109 Stat. 163, codified at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 and 5 C.F.R. § 1320

- PURPOSE.** This Instruction promulgates policy for Coast Guard employees and contractors including the roles and responsibilities for Accessible Systems and Technology Program (ASTP); Section 508. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides all employees and external customers, including those with disabilities, access to and use of information and data in accordance with Reference (a) and (b).
- ACTION.** All Coast Guard unit commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements must comply with the provisions of this Instruction. Internet release is authorized.
- DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** The United States Coast Guard Implementation of the Rehabilitation Act, Section 508 COMDTINST 5230.60B is hereby cancelled.
- DISCLAIMER.** This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide administrative guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.

DISTRIBUTION - SDL No. 170

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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

5. MAJOR CHANGES. This instruction is retitled and restructured to reflect change made by the United States Access Board and current DHS policy. This instruction reflects the complex interdisciplinary nature of Section 508. The Coast Guard's approach for compliance is described along with highlighting the breadth of organizational responsibilities. The Department of Defense's (DOD) Computer/Electronics Accommodation (CAP) program, as of FY 2021, no longer funds nor procures CAP equipment for non DOD departments or agencies; at the time of publication, DoD still provides assistive technology advisement and referrals at cap.mil .
6. SCOPE AND AUTHORITIES. This Instruction applies to the Coast Guard workforce. In addition to the legal framework listed in the references section above, it is recommended the reader become familiar with the policy contained in the directives and publications also noted throughout this Instruction which are now listed in numerical series order:  
Information Management and Electronic Government (E-GOV), COMDTINST 5200.1 (series);  
Records & Information Management Program Roles and Responsibilities, COMDTINST 5212.12 (series);  
The Coast Guard Correspondence Manual, COMDTINST M5216.4 (series);  
U.S. Coast Guard Civil Rights Manual, COMDTINST M5350.4 (series);  
Major System Acquisition Manual, COMDTINST M5000.10 (series);  
DHS Directive, Instruction No. 139-05 revision 1, Accessible Systems and Technology Program, November 12, 2018; and,  
DHS Directive, Instruction No. 046-01, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, November 01, 2013
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
  - a. Commandant CG-612 reviewed the development of this Instruction, and the general policies contained within it, and determined that this policy falls under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorical exclusion A3.
  - b. This Instruction will not result in any substantial change to existing environmental conditions or violation of any applicable federal, state, or local laws relating to the protection of the environment. It is the responsibility of the action proponent to evaluate all future specific actions resulting from this policy for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), other applicable environmental mandates, and the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, (COMDTIST 5090.1 (series)).
8. DISTRIBUTION. Paper distribution will not be made of this Instruction. An electronic version is located on the following Commandant (CG-612) websites: Internet: [dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-C4IT-CG-6/The-Office-of-Information-Management-CG-61/Forms-Management/](http://dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-C4IT-CG-6/The-Office-of-Information-Management-CG-61/Forms-Management/) and CGPortal: [cg.portal.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx](http://cg.portal.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx) .
9. BACKGROUND. Section 508 applies to federal departments and agencies that develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Access to Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) is further directed by the United States Access Board standards and guidelines. This is to ensure that federal employees and members of the public with disabilities have access to and the use of information and data comparable to that of federal employees and members of the public without disabilities. This is accomplished through a range of DHS and Coast Guard policy, training, technical assistance, governance, and compliance activities.

- a. DHS Directive, Instruction No. 139-05 revision 1, Accessible Systems and Technology Program applies throughout DHS and directs compliance in alignment with Reference (a). At DHS Headquarters, the Executive Director of the Office Accessible and Systems Technology (OAST) is directed by the DHS Chief Information Officer to implement the DHS ASTP and to ensure that ASTPs are fully integrated into the DHS Enterprise Architecture and Capital Planning and Investment Control Processes. In turn, OAST provides vision and leadership, establishes and implements policies, procedures, practices, and performance measures for each component (including Coast Guard) 508 program. OAST reports to the DHS CIO on the maturity of Section 508 programs and documents compliance related activities, which are rolled up to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and U.S. Congress. Each Department and component is scored on a progressive maturity level from ad hoc, to planned, to resourced, and finally to measured. Scoring content addresses areas such as acquisition, technology lifecycle activities, testing and validation of requirements, management of complaints, and measured training.
  - b. DHS directs that component heads must establish a Section 508 Program. The Coast Guard ASTP Section 508 Program Management Office is located in the Division of Information Management, Directives and Publications (CG-612) within the Office of Information Management (CG-61), and within the Directorate of the Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Computers, Communications, and Information Technology (CG-6). Section 508 Program Managers, under the Coast Guard ASTP works in close coordination with OAST. A designated Federal Component Section 508 Program Manager has the authority, when needed, to report directly to the Component Chief Information Officer. This is in alignment with the above DHS Directive, Instruction No. 139-05 revision.
  - c. DHS Headquarter Office roles include the General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel (OGC); the Officer of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) who shares part responsibility for Section 508; DHS Chief Human Capital Officer; DHS Chief Procurement Officer; DHS Chief Financial Officer; and others responsible across DHS including component Requiring Officials (including Contracting Officers Representatives (COR) and purchase card users); Contracting Officers; and Web Content Managers (including Website owners or equivalent).
10. POLICY DISCUSSION. It is the policy of the Coast Guard to progress in program maturity as guided by the DHS Office of Accessible Systems and Technology (OAST), in order to achieve Section 508 compliance standards. An interdisciplinary and collaborative approach must be taken by the Coast Guard with proactive actions to ensure that all ICT developed, procured, maintained, or used, and all new or revised information made available on the Internet or Intranet meets accessibility standards. Section 508 compliance activities will continue to be integrated into agency-wide policies and procedures, particularly in the areas of acquisition, software development, content management, cloud, human resources, and civil rights programs. The Coast Guard strives to meet the demands of citizen-centric electronic government and to attract and retain the best talent and to maintain a productive workforce.
  11. UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD. The United States Access Board is a federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards for the built environment. The United States Access Board issued a 2017 refresh in the form of a *final rule* of the Section 508 Standards and under References (a) and (b). This final rule went into effect on January 18, 2018. This rule was in part issued to a response to market trends and innovations, such as the convergence of

technologies. The refresh also harmonized these requirements with other guidelines and standards both in the U.S. and abroad. This included standards issued by the European Commission, the World Wide Web Consortium (WC3) Web Content, and Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) – a global voluntary consensus standard for web content and ICT.

12. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA). In collaboration with the United States Access Board, GSA provides Section 508 technical assistance tools, and workforce development including training to support Federal agencies including the Coast Guard. GSA publishes a list of government wide Section 508 coordinators by agency at [Section508.gov/tools/coordinator-listing](http://Section508.gov/tools/coordinator-listing). DHS collaborates very closely with GSA as they develop departmentally centric tools and resources. Input from the Coast Guard is incorporated into these tools.
13. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT). As defined by the United States Access Board, information technology and other equipment, systems, technologies, or processes for which the principal function is the creation, storage, display, receipt, or transmission of electronic data and information, as well as any associated content. Sources of ICT may include Commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS), Government-off-the-shelf (GOTS), or modified or custom developed software for government use, provided through direct license or as-a-service, commercial, or open source, installed on premise or in the cloud. Section 508 language must be included any time a contract will be used to obtain ICT, either directly or as a commercially available product, through a service deliverable that will result in changes to or delivery of new ICT.
14. POLICY STATEMENT ON THE DHS ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TOOL (DART). As a matter of policy, the DHS Accessibility Requirements Tool (DART) must be used to generate Section 508 language for inclusion in the contract. The DART is more than a contract language generator and assists with project planning, market research, and solicitation. ICT is typically categorized into three categories of electronic content, software, and hardware. Determining user (human) interface of the ICT is also necessary. The tool may be utilized at [www.dhs.gov/dart](http://www.dhs.gov/dart).
15. POLICY STATEMENT ON THE ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ACMS). It is the policy of the Coast Guard to use ACMS as directed by DHS. ACMS allows for data inputs by the Coast Guard to be rolled up to DHS and be reported to OMB and U.S. Congress. Although ACMS user requests may be submitted by the workforce at large (requires Common Access Card), ACMS users are predominately analysts with role based permission accounts. ACMS usage includes (not limited to) the following Section 508 related management activities: acquisition request documentation, application reviews, enterprise architecture reviews, outreach activities, component accomplishments, internal projects, technical assistance including ICT reviews, testing results, training request, complaints, inventory, customer feedback and reporting. ACMS may be accessed at <http://dhsconnect.dhs.gov/Resources/accessibility-section-508>.
16. POLICY STATEMENT ON THE DHS SECTION 508 PLAYBOOK. It is the policy of the Coast Guard for IT project managers, acquisition teams, developers, and testers to use the DHS Section 508 Playbook as a best practice guideline. The playbook is an online role-based guide designed to be used by DHS IT projects and acquisition teams. The playbook may be retrieved internally via DHS Connect at this link [DHS Section 508 Playbook](#). It provides easy to follow checklists, instructions, job aids and training resources to help teams address the Section 508 requirements when they buy, build, and deploy technology products and services to support a greater customer experience for all users. The playbook provides guidelines, best practices, and other resources to

help integrate accessibility into IT project plans throughout the entire lifecycle. Questions about the playbook may be directed to [Section.508@uscg.mil](mailto:Section.508@uscg.mil) or [Accessibility@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:Accessibility@hq.dhs.gov) .

17. BENEFITS. Improvement of accessibility supports many areas of information assurance. This includes security and privacy. Accessible websites are easier to maintain, inherently mobile-friendly, and deliver a better customer experience. Accessible design can lead to long-term cost savings and reach more customers. IT systems designed to be accessible from the start of an acquisition avoid costly retrofits for compliance, customer complaints, and complicated legal actions. Accessible and easy-to-use technological solutions can also improve public perception of government in general, and the Coast Guard in particular.
18. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY. Assistive Technology (AT) is defined by industry associations as any item, piece of equipment, or system that is commonly used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. AT can be low tech or high tech hardware, software, specialized learning materials, or electronic devices including wheelchairs, walkers, braces, power lifts, pencil holders, and eye-gaze and head trackers. Different disabilities require different assistive technologies. Assistive technology helps people who have difficulty speaking, typing, writing, remembering, pointing, seeing, hearing, learning, and walking. AT software often includes text-to-speech converters, screen magnifiers, on-screen keyboards, and speech-to-text converters. Electronic content produced by the Coast Guard must be made accessible to users, regardless of disability. Electronic content includes electronic documents, websites and pages, applications, multimedia, and agency wide emails. Before content can be made public, it must be accessible per Section 508.
19. POLICY STATEMENT ON TESTING. All testing of ICT within the Coast Guard should be performed by a DHS Certified Trusted Tester (TT) holding the most current DHS certification credential. DHS provides training for agencies to obtain the most current testing standards and certifications. As certification is not immediate, it is recommended that this credential be insourced and inherent to the program or project team. A user will need to obtain a training account for TT training at <https://training.section508testing.net/> .
20. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. As a unified effort, Coast Guard leaders will improve accessibility through progressive governance, including advocacy and appropriate resourcing for accessible business functions. The following are Section 508 roles and responsibilities within the Coast Guard.
  - a. The Coast Guard Chief Information Officer (CIO), Commandant (CG-6). Establishes and maintains the agency Accessibility Systems and Technology Program (ASTP); Section 508. Provides leadership of the program and appoints the Section 508 Program Manager. The CIO ensures that Section 508 accessibility considerations are incorporated into the planning, operation, and management of any IT that the agency develops, uses, or maintains. The CIO must also collaborate with other executives including the Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO, to ensure Section 508 is considered in IT procured by the Coast Guard. The CIO also collaborates with the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and the Coast Guard Civil Rights Directorate (CRD) for Section 508 reasonable accommodation request fulfillment and for complaint resolution.
  - b. The Coast Guard Chief Acquisitions Officer (CAO), Commandant (CG-9). In collaboration with the CIO, ensures that Section 508 requirements are incorporated into ICT that is procured by the agency. The CAO is responsible for agency performance of acquisitions activities and

acquisition programs, to include development of the agency's acquisition workforce.

- c. Director, Workforce Management, Commandant (CG-122). Ensures that workforce policy and communications published are accessible. Conducts periodic outreach promoting best practice for accessibility awareness. Enterprise systems related to human resources must be compliant. Agency official communications must be compliant, including emergency workforce communications.
- d. Director, Coast Guard Civil Rights Directorate (CRD), Commandant (CG-00H). Ensures Section 508 requirements are represented in policy, guidance, and reasonable accommodation process, as applicable. Collaborates with the CIO and Section 508 Program Manager to ensure a unified agency approach.
- e. The Public Affairs Community (including staffs, offices, and individuals who create and publish electronic content). Ensures that external publishing is proactively managed and that Section 508 compliant materials are released for the general public. The DHS measures the compliance of all components, including the Coast Guard, and reports this data to Congress on an annual basis. Agency official communications must be accessible and comply with video, audio, and social media posts that conform to 508 standards.
- f. General Executive Support for Accessible IT. Ensure that their directorates and staffs publish compliant content. Coast Guard executive support for accessible IT is essential to increase compliance with federal rules. It is best practice to do a final Section 508 review and remediation prior to publishing or distributing final electronic content with an audience of over 1000 readers.
- g. Federal Component, Section 508 Program Manager, Commandant (CG-612). Coordinates and manages the Coast Guard's Accessibility Systems and Technology Program (ASTP) Section 508 on behalf of the Coast Guard CIO. As a liaison with DHS OAST, the Section 508 Program Manager leads efforts within the Coast Guard to integrate departmental level compliance activities and establish policies and processes related to ICT procurement and compliance. The Coast Guard Section 508 Program Manager also promotes website compliance and accessibility awareness. In addition, the Coast Guard Section 508 Program Manager has decision making authority for the approval of *agency level* Section 508 acquisition ITAR exceptions, and coordinates *department level* Section 508 acquisition ITAR exception requests. The Section 508 Program Manager coordinates with other components to ensure the sharing of best practice and DHS policy alignment.
- h. The Coast Guard Acquisition Community. Ensure Section 508 is incorporated with the Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) and Systems Engineering Lifecycle (SEL) process. The Major System Acquisition Manual, COMINST M5000.10 (series) provides some of the roles as applicable to Section 508.
- i. Contracting Officers (KO). Ensures that relevant Section 508 language is included in all solicitations, contracts, and agreements that contain ICT. The KO reviews required 508 conformance documentation that capabilities to address 508 requirements are considered in award decisions, and that contract management activities address 508 requirements, terms and conditions.
- j. Contracting Officer Representatives (COR). Ensures that Acquisition Plans address activities

related to supporting the 508 requirements. The COR ensures market research and alternatives analysis address Section 508 requirements, ensures relevant Section 508 solicitation language is obtained from the DART tool, ensures 508 conformance claims are properly evaluated during technical evaluations, and technical acceptance activities include validation of 508 conformance claims.

- k. The IT Project Manager and/or Technical Sponsor. Ensures that accessibility activities are planned and appropriately resourced. A working knowledge of the Section 508 requirements and related activities is required throughout the program/project lifecycle for projects or programs procuring ICT. For example, project managers ensure developers follow accessibility best practices to design and develop accessible solutions and electronic content. Project managers ensure accessibility testing is performed using the DHS Trusted Tester process through development (iterative) to implementation (comprehensive). When Section 508 issues are identified, project managers establish and implement a remediation plan to address outstanding issues, and, if necessary, ensure that an alternative means is provided to individuals with disabilities for functions and features that are not accessible. Project managers also maintain records of 508 compliance documentation.
  - l. The Individual (employees, electronic content creators). Ensure creation of Coast Guard electronic content complies with The Coast Guard Correspondence Manual, COMDTINST M5216.4 (series) guidance to the Coast Guard writer, with regards to Section 508 compliant electronic content.
  - m. The Trusted Tester. Ensures all products, systems, software, websites, portal pages, training courses, job aids, and other electronic documents are tested for Section 508. The role of the trusted tester is a crucial role of assessment and accountability. It is highly desirable for each website manager to be Section 508 certified. It is recommended that each directorate and each major acquisition program have a certified trusted tester at the most current level required by DHS. This enables the testing of systems and products and remediation for accessibility compliance. Section 508 certifications may be obtained through remote learning and is presently funded by OAST. Trusted testers must utilize DHS testing best practices, methodologies and tools to support accessibility validation of technology.
  - n. All Coast Guard Developers, Website Managers, and Software Developers. Ensure a working knowledge of the Section 508 standards and testing guidelines and utilization of accessibility best practices to design and develop accessible solutions and electronic content from acquisition, through development, configuration, deployment, and maintenance; including digital content creation and management.
  - o. Coast Guard, Enterprise Architectural Board. Ensures accessibility compliance. The Coast Guard Chief Architect chairs the Enterprise Architecture Board (EAB) and maintains Section 508 equity representation.
  - p. Coast Guard Change Control Board(s). Ensure accessibility compliance Section 508 equity representation. Changes for ICT are currently managed through the IT Acquisition Review process.
21. EXCEPTIONS TO SECTION 508 COMPLIANCE. Contact the Coast Guard Section 508 Program Manager at [Section.508@uscg.mil](mailto:Section.508@uscg.mil) for consultation before assuming a past exception applies to a new acquisition.



- a. The exception types are:
  - (1) *National Security Exception,*
  - (2) *ICT Functions located in Maintenance and Monitoring Spaces Exception,*
  - (3) *Fundamental Alternation Exception,*
  - (4) *Federal Contracts Exception,*
  - (5) *Undue Burden Exception,*
  - (6) *Legacy ICT Exception,* and
  - (7) *Best Meets Exception.*
  
- b. It is best practice to contact Section.508@uscg.mil before submitting a new exception request directly through the DART tool into ACMS. Typically, pre-existing exceptions are not reused for new acquisitions. Please note that when there is no user interface, such as middleware, Section 508 does not apply. Exception Types and Approval Authority listed in Appendix A contains a specific description of each exception. Typically the Coast Guard can process this request within 5 business days. An exception artifact will be provided via email to the program sponsor directly once approved. Not all requests are approved.

22. ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT AND THE 508 COMPLAINT PROCESS. At the bottom of each outward facing Coast Guard internet website is an accessibility hyperlink that contains an Accessibility Statement. If ICT used by the Coast Guard does not comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, a 508 complaint may be filed. It is recommended that users of ICT contact Section.508@uscg.mil for guidance on any ICT 508 accessibility challenges in order to find solutions. Please note that the Section 508 program office does not have the agency lead in the management of Reasonable Accommodations requests, although Section 508 program advisement may be part of the solution. Personnel wanting to submit a complaint must follow the steps outlined in the U.S. Coast Guard Civil Rights Manual, COMDTINST M5350.4 (series). The standard Civil Rights agency process must be followed at this time. Alternatively DHS may be reached at Accessibility@hq.dhs.gov .

23. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. Records created as a result of this Instruction, regardless of format or media, must be managed in accordance with the records retention schedule located on the Records Resource Center CGPortal site: [cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/cg61/CG611/SitePages/Home.aspx](http://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/cg61/CG611/SitePages/Home.aspx) .

24. FORMS. There are no Coast Guard forms referenced in this instruction. Section 508 specific DHS data calls and ongoing reports are typically inputted via ACMS.

25. REPORTING. The United States Department of Justice biennially conducts a survey of all federal agencies to ascertain the status of compliance with Section 508. The Coast Guard provides measures to OAST via ACMS for inclusion in this report. External facing websites are also subject to ongoing external audit. The Coast Guard also provides data requested by the Coast Civil Rights Directorate (CRD) as needed for accountability purposes for U.S. Congress.

26. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals may formally recommend changes through the chain of command using the Coast Guard memorandum. Comments and suggestions from users of this Instruction are welcomed. All such correspondence may be emailed to Commandant (CG-612) at Section.508@uscg.mil .

/DAVID M. DERMANELIAN/  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR C4IT (CG-6)

Appendix A. Exception Types and Approval Authority

## Appendix A. Exception Types and Approval Authority

1. National Security Exception. This exception only applies to technology that is related to a system that is **designated and monitored as a National Security System by DHS**. It does not apply to routine administrative and business applications such as payroll, finance, logistics, and personnel management, even if they are in support of a system that is officially designated as a National Security System. This exception must be authorized by the Office of Assistive Systems & Technology (OAST) Executive Director. Contact Section.508@uscg.mil for internal processing and package submittal details. Once submitted to DHS, a minimum of 3 weeks is required for approvals. A request may also qualify for a different exception type.
2. ICT Functions located in Maintenance and Monitoring Spaces Exception. This exception only applies to devices that have status indicators or operable parts (i.e., physical controls), and are located in spaces that are frequented only by service personnel for maintenance, repair, or occasional monitoring of equipment (i.e., on rack mounted in a wiring closet). This exception does not apply to software or operating systems and must be authorized by the Component Section 508 Program Manager. Contact Section.508@uscg.mil for internal approval.
3. Fundamental Alteration Exception. This exception only applies to technology when a fundamental alteration to the features and functions of the technology would be required to conform to the Revised Section 508 Standards. Making these changes would result in a product that no longer meets the agency business needs. This exception must be authorized by the Component Section 508 Program Manager. Contact Section.508@uscg.mil for internal approval.
4. Federal Contracts Exception. This only applies to technology that is acquired by a contractor incidental to a contract and owned by the contractor. It does not apply to technology that will be procured by the government or used by the government. This exception must be authorized by the Component Section 508 Program Manager. Contact Section.508@uscg.mil for internal approval. This particular exception is rarely requested.
5. Undue Burden Exception. This exception only applies to the specific features or functions of the ICT that cannot be made to conform to the Revised Section 508 Standards without imposing an undue burden on the agency or component. An Undue Burden is defined as significant expense or difficulty. This exception must be authorized by the OAST Executive Director. Contact Section.508@uscg.mil for internal processing and package submittal details. Once submitted to DHS, a minimum of 3 weeks is required for approvals. This exception is particularly difficult to obtain.
6. Legacy ICT Exception. This exception applies to any component or portion of existing ICT that complied with the original Section 508 standards issued before December 2000 (either through meeting the original standards or through having an authorized 508 exception under the original standards), and that has not been altered on or after January 2018. Contact Section.508@uscg.mil for internal processing and package submittal details. Once submitted to DHS, a minimum of 3 weeks is required for approvals.
7. Best Meets Exception. This exception applies where ICT conforming to one or more requirements in the Revised Section 508 Standards is not commercially available. When this situation occurs, the agency is required under the Revised Section 508 Standards to procure the ICT that meets the business needs and best meets the Revised Section 508 Standards. When claiming this exception, **the agency must document its justification, and provide an alternative means for persons** who have disabilities to access data and information supported by the non-conforming technology. Contact Section.508@uscg.mil for internal processing and package submittal details. Once submitted to DHS, a minimum of 3 weeks is required for approvals.