American Chemical Society (ACS) Accessibility Remediation Timeline

Last updated: August 7, 2025

Accessibility Commitment Statement

At ACS Publications, we are committed to ensuring that our digital content is accessible for all users, including individuals with disabilities. We strive to meet the accessibility standards defined by the **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2**, the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, and other applicable accessibility regulations and best practices.

This document outlines our **accessibility remediation plan**, which is informed by a comprehensive accessibility audit and a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) report. It includes a timeline for addressing known accessibility issues and implementing improvements across our platform.

Our goal is to provide an inclusive and equitable experience for all users. We are actively working to resolve identified issues and enhance the accessibility of our site for everyone. We appreciate your patience and support as we continue to improve.

Contact & Support information

If you encounter any accessibility barriers or have suggestions for improvement, please contact us at email address: acs_pubs_assist@acs.org

How to Use this Document

Below is an example of how each known issue is presented. For complete details about the issues please refer to our VPAT found at https://pubs.acs.org/accessibility

WCAG Criteria, Compliance Level (partially supports/does not support), Details on the issue

- **Current Status:** (open/closed)
- **Disposition:** (planned/deferred)
- **Expected Remediation Date:**
- **Available Workaround(s):**

Remediation Timeline

Level A

1) WCAG 1.1.1 non-text content. ==Partially supported==. Figures within articles do not have alternative text.
   a. **Current Status:** Open
   b. **Disposition:** deferred
   c. **Expected Remediation Date:** N/A
   d. **Available Workaround:** figure captions are programmatically labelled and immediately follow article figures.
2) Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded), WCAG 1.2.1. Not supported. The videos hosted on the ACS publication site do not include text alternatives or descriptions.
   a. **Current Status:** open
   b. **Disposition:** planned
   c. **Expected Remediation Date:** end of Q4, 2025
   d. **Available Workarounds:** N/A
3) Captions (Prerecorded), WCAG 1.2.2. Not supported. Pre-recorded video-only content is available on the ACS publication site without equivalent text alternatives, such as transcripts or descriptive text.
   a. **Current Status:** open
   b. **Disposition:** planned
   c. **Expected Remediation Date:** end of Q4, 2025
   d. **Available Workarounds:** N/A
4) Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded), WCAG 1.2.3. Not supported. ACS Publications includes prerecorded video content where meaningful visual elements are not described in the audio narration, and no audio description track, or equivalent media alternative is provided.
   a. **Current Status:** open
   b. **Disposition:** planned
   c. **Expected Remediation Date:** end of Q4, 2025
   d. **Available Workarounds:** N/A
5) WCAG 1.4.1 use of color. ==Partially supported==. Some links and buttons lack insufficient contrast during their hover states.
   a. **Current Status:** open
   b. **Disposition:** planned
   c. **Expected Remediation Date:** end of Q3, 2025
   d. **Available Workarounds:** N/A

6) Link Purpose (In Context), WCAG 2.4.4. <mark>Partially supported</mark>. Link texts are descriptive, and when generic terms are used, they are presented within a clear context that clarifies their purpose. We have one failure with advertisements.

    a. **Current Status:** open

    b. **Disposition:** planned

    c. **Expected Remediation Date:** end of Q3, 2025

    d. **Available Workarounds:** N/A

American Chemical Society Accessibility Conformance Report*
WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: https://pubs.acs.org

Report Date: April 2025

Updated Date: July 2025

Product Description: The American Chemical Society (ACS) is a non-profit organization founded in 1876 and chartered by the U.S. Congress. ACS is committed to improving all lives through the transforming power of chemistry. ACS aims to advance scientific knowledge, empower a global community, and champion scientific integrity. Our vision is a world built on science.

Contact Information: https://pubs.acs.org/

Evaluation Methods Used: The ACS site was evaluated using a combination of manual and automated methods. Manual test methods included standard keyboard testing methodologies and assistive technology testing. Electronic documents were evaluated using a combination of automated testing tools and manual test methods.

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

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

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	Level A (**Yes**) Level AA (**Yes**) Level AAA (**No**)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (**Yes**) Level AA (**Yes**) Level AAA (**No**)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	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

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Partially supports	A significant number of decorative icons are exposed to assistive technology. Figures used in publications do not have adequate text equivalents. Some controls and links labeled with icons have no accessible name.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)	Not supported	The Videos media hosted on the product don't include text alternatives or descriptions

1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not supported	Pre-recorded video-only content is available on the product without equivalent text alternatives, such as transcripts or descriptive text, limiting access for users who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or low-vision.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not supported	Product includes prerecorded video content with synchronized audio and meaningful visual elements. These visual elements are not described in the audio narration, and no audio description track or equivalent media alternative (such as a descriptive transcript) is provided.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Supported	Information, structure, and relationships conveyed visually are also programmatically determinable by assistive technologies. Journal content presented in the online PDF reader has no semantic markup and appears as plain unformatted text (the same content can be accessed as a web page with semantic markup).
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supported	For content presented on the product, a logical reading order is maintained for different types of content. And Text is always in a meaningful sequence. Tables and ordered lists are in meaningful sequences.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supported	Sensory characteristics are not used.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially Supported	A small number of items indicate their state with color alone.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Not Applicable	The product does not include audio content that plays automatically.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Supported	All functionality of the content is operable through a keyboard interface without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supported	The user can navigate to different sections using the keyboard only.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	The Product does not implement character key shortcuts
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Supported	No time limits are set by content
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Not Applicable	Product does not include content that moves, blinks, scrolls, or auto-updates.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	Product does not include any flashing, strobing, or animated content that could trigger seizures
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supported	Heading and landmark region markup can be used to bypass blocks of content.

2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supported	Product includes unique, descriptive titles on the pages, ensuring users can easily understand the page's content or purpose.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supported	Focus follows a logical order and matches the visual layout. Interactive elements are reachable via keyboard.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Partially Supported	The purpose of most links can be determined either from link text alone or from context. Some links appear unlabeled or redundantly labeled due to decorative icons exposed to assistive technology.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	The Product does not use complex gestures such as pinch, swipe, or drag-based inputs.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only)	Supported	Pointer action can be cancelled by moving off active element before lifting pointer.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only)	Supported	User interface components with labels that include text or images of text, the name contains the visually presented text
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	The product does not use motion-based input (such as device tilt or shake) for navigation or interaction.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supported	Language is defined in HTML the `<html>` tag does include a `lang` attribute
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supported	When any component receives focus from tabbing, it does not initiate a change of context.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supported	Pages remain static until the user actively submits the input (e.g., pressing Enter or clicking a button)
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supported	The footer contains the "Support & Contact" section which has "Live chat", "Help", and "FAQs".
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Supported	Error messages are provided.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supported	While labels and instructions are provided for page elements.
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Not applicable	Product does not involve multi-step processes requiring repeated user input
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)	Supported	For WCAG 2.0, 2.1, EN 301 549, and Revised 508 Standards, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata and the WCAG 2.1 Editorial Errata.
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Supported	Component name, role, and value are programmatically determinable.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	Product does not include live multimedia content.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	The product does not include prerecorded multimedia content with a synchronized audio track.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supported	Content does not restrict its view and operation to a single display orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supported	The purpose of each input field collecting information about the user can be programmatically determined
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Supported	Contrast between foreground and background colors meets WCAG 2 AA minimum contrast ratio thresholds.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supported	Text in the product can be resized to 500% without loss of content or functionality
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supported	Most text is real and selectable text
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supported	Users can zoom in up to 500% without losing content.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supported	Non-text elements have sufficient color contrast of 3:1 against adjacent color(s).
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supported	No loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property: • Line height (line spacing) to at least 1.5 times the font size; • Spacing following paragraphs to at least 2 times the font size; • Letter spacing (tracking) to at least 0.12 times the font size; • Word spacing to at least 0.16 times the font size.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supported	A tooltip is displayed when the user hovers over any button.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supported	Product provides multiple ways of locating a page within a set of pages. These methods include: • Site navigation • Site search

2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supported	Product contains heading and field label text that are descriptive and indicate meaning or purpose.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supported	A visible focus indicator is displayed for interactive elements.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supported	When a component receives a focus using the keyboard, the component will not be hidden on ACS.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	The product does not use dragging gestures for functionality.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supported	Interactive targets on the page (e.g., buttons) meet the 24×24 CSS pixels.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supported	Language is defined in HTML the `<html>` tag does include a `lang` attribute
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supported	Search boxes and navigation bars are in the same place on multiple pages to ensure easy locating.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supported	Content can be presented without losing information or functionality, and without the need for scrolling in both vertical and horizontal directions.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	Where validation behaviors are present in product forms, the user is notified of the error in text and suggestions for amendment are provided to the user.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supported	The data entered by the user is checked for input errors, and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supported	Product supports password entry by password managers, copy and paste function. A cognitive function test (such as remembering a password or solving a puzzle) is not required for any step in an authentication process.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supported	Product displays a message if the saving/buying process has passed or failed.

Legal Disclaimer*

This document shows the accessibility status of https://pubs.acs.org/, after testing the following pages against the above criteria:

1. Home page : https://pubs.acs.org
2. Journal page: https://pubs.acs.org/journal/achre4

3. Article page : https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jpclett.9b01763
4. Search Result page https://pubs.acs.org/action/doSearch?AllField=test
5. Show cart page : https://pubs.acs.org/action/showCart
6. Table of Content page : https://pubs.acs.org/**toc/achre4/current**
7. List of issues page : https://pubs.acs.org/loi/aaemcq
8. Acs-in-focus series: https://pubs.acs.org/series/infocus
9. In-focus-book: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/book/10.1021/acs.infocus.7e4001
10. Acs-guide: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/book/10.1021/acsguide
11. c&en-journal: https://pubs.acs.org/journal/cgeabj
12. Editor-choice: https://pubs.acs.org/editorschoice/
13. c&en-toc: https://pubs.acs.org/toc/cgeabj/current
14. Download-citations: https://pubs.acs.org/action/showCitFormats?doi=10.1021%2Facs.accounts.0c00594&include=cit&format=ris&direct=true&downloadFileName=acs.accounts.0c00594&href=/doi/10.1021/acs.accounts.0c00594
15. Most read articles: https://pubs.acs.org/action/showMostReadArticles
16. c&en-article: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/cen-10302-cover
17. Chapter-page: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsguide.10502
18. Acs-reagent: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/book/10.1021/acsreagents
19. Denial-page: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.3c10372
20. Show publication: https://pubs.acs.org/action/showPublications

Note: We also cover many additional pages in the manual test, beyond the ones mentioned.

*Testing and document preparation was performed by Atypon Systems for American Chemical Society.