CMS Section 508 Program Tip #5: Fields Labels

This Monthly Tip Series falls under the Program Pillar of Policy and Program Administration.

Field labels carry a “high impact” consideration and should be prioritized during development and remediation.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT
In order for assistive technology users to understand and successfully complete a given task, form fields must have labels that are programmatically defined.

WHAT TO DO
1. Ensure all form input controls have a meaningful and unique accessible name:
   • Programatically associate the visual label with its field using the label tag for attribute. The value must match the ID of the field.
2. Relative form controls (check boxes, radio buttons, and multi-part fields) must be labeled. Use the FIELDSET and LEGEND tags.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information on field labels and related techniques, please visit the WCAG 2.0, Guideline 3.3.2, Labels or Instructions.

Disclaimer
In accordance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (29 U.S.C. 794d), CMS Section 508 Program team is committed to ensuring that the content is accessible to all viewers. Send feedback or concerns related to the accessibility of this website to the CMS Section 508 Program team at CMS Section 508 General Resource Mailbox.