

# VPAT™ for Apple Watch

The following Voluntary Product Accessibility information refers to the **Apple Watch**. For more information on the accessibility features of this product and to learn more about this product's features, visit <http://www.apple.com/watch/> and [www.apple.com/accessibility](http://www.apple.com/accessibility)

## VPAT™ Voluntary Product Accessibility Template *Summary Table*

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems	<b>Please refer to the attached VPAT</b>	
Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products	<b>Please refer to the attached VPAT</b>	Does not apply—accessibility features consistent with standards nonetheless noted below.
Section 1194.24 Video and Multi-media Products	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	<b>Please refer to the attached VPAT</b>	Does not apply—accessibility features consistent with standards nonetheless noted below.
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria	<b>Please refer to the attached VPAT</b>	
Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support	<b>Please refer to the attached VPAT</b>	

## Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems – Detail

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.	Not Applicable	
(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.	Supported	Apple Watch includes an accessibility API that enables applications to interact with assistive technologies without disrupting the system or each other. Details of the Accessibility API are available on the Apple Developer web site: <a href="https://developer.apple.com/watchkit/">https://developer.apple.com/watchkit/</a>
(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.	Supported	Apple Watch provides a clear and distinct visual indication of the element focus on-screen.  The VoiceOver cursor is also clearly defined. The cursor can be used in conjunction with screen magnification. Using VoiceOver, a description of the elements on which these cursors are focused can also be spoken.
(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.	Supported with exceptions	In a few but rare cases, some buttons and controls may not include names or reflect their state.  The Apple Watch Accessibility API allows applications to provide information about the identity, operation, and state of elements in applications and in the operating system interface itself.  Application developers can learn about how to ensure that their application correctly utilizes the Accessibility API at the Apple Developer Web site: <a href="https://developer.apple.com/watchkit/">https://developer.apple.com/watchkit/</a>
(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.	Supported	Images used in Apple Watch are used in a consistent manner.  Apple provides Human Interface Guidelines that instruct developers of iOS applications to support this as well. They are provided on the Internet here: <a href="https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/UserExperience/Conceptual/WatchHumanInterfaceGuidelines/index.html">https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/UserExperience/Conceptual/WatchHumanInterfaceGuidelines/index.html</a>

(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	<b>Supported</b>	<p>Apple Watch provides system-level control of display characteristics that cannot be overridden by applications, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users can switch the display from color to grayscale.</li> <li>• Users can magnify the screen, including dynamically changing content like photos. (See section 1194.31(b) for more information about Zoom).</li> </ul> <p>All of these features are accessed through the Accessibility settings in the Watch App on the iPhone and can be used together in different combinations to suit the user's needs.</p>
(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.	<b>Supported with exceptions</b>	<p>Animations used for app switching and navigation are cosmetic only and do not affect the ability to use these features. Apple Watch provides the ability to reduce motion via the Accessibility settings on the device itself or through the Watch App on the iPhone.</p>
(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	<b>Supported with exceptions</b>	<p>Apple Watch uses color to convey information in On/Off labels, but provides the ability to enable labels in the Accessibility settings.</p> <p>There may be areas in individual apps, such as displaying events in Calendar, that do not provide another means distinguishing a visual element.</p>
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.	<b>Not supported</b>	
(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	<b>Not supported</b>	
(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	

## **Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products – Detail**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and Explanations</b>
(a) Telecommunications products or systems which provide a function allowing voice communication and which do not themselves provide a TTY functionality shall provide a standard non- acoustic connection point for TTYs. Microphones shall be capable of being turned on and off to allow the user to intermix speech with TTY use.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(b) Telecommunications products which include voice communication functionality shall support all commonly used cross-manufacturer non- proprietary standard TTY signal protocols.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(c) Voice mail, auto-attendant, and interactive voice response telecommunications systems shall be usable by TTY users with their TTYs.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(d) Voice mail, messaging, auto-attendant, and interactive voice response telecommunications systems that require a response from a user within a time interval, shall give an alert when the time interval is about to run out, and shall provide sufficient time for the user to indicate more time is required.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(e) Where provided, caller identification and similar telecommunications functions shall also be available for users of TTYs, and for users who cannot see displays.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(f) For transmitted voice signals, telecommunications products shall provide a gain adjustable up to a minimum of 20 dB. For incremental volume control, at least one intermediate step of 12 dB of gain shall be provided.	<b>Not supported</b>	
(g) If the telecommunications product allows a user to adjust the receive volume, a function shall be provided to automatically reset the volume to the default level after every use.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	

(h) Where a telecommunications product delivers output by an audio transducer which is normally held up to the ear, a means for effective magnetic wireless coupling to hearing technologies shall be provided.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(i) Interference to hearing technologies (including hearing aids, cochlear implants, and assistive listening devices) shall be reduced to the lowest possible level that allows a user of hearing technologies to utilize the telecommunications product.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(j) Products that transmit or conduct information or communication, shall pass through cross-manufacturer, non-proprietary, industry- standard codes, translation protocols, formats or other information necessary to provide the information or communication in a usable format. Technologies which use encoding, signal compression, format transformation, or similar techniques shall not remove information needed for access or shall restore it upon delivery.	<b>Supported</b>	Watch transmits data using industry wireless standards such as Bluetooth 4.0, and 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi.
(k) Products which have mechanically operated controls or keys, shall comply with the following:		
(1) Controls and keys shall be tactilely discernible without activating the controls or keys.	<b>Supported</b>	The built-in VoiceOver screen reader provides audio and visual feedback for touchscreen controls without requiring the user to activate them.  The Digital Crown, Side Button and Band Releases are also tactilely discernible.
(2) Controls and keys shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate controls and keys shall be 5 lbs. (22.2 N) maximum.	<b>Supported</b>	
(3) If key repeat is supported, the delay before repeat shall be adjustable to at least 2 seconds. Key repeat rate shall be adjustable to 2 seconds per character.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
(4) The status of all locking or toggle controls or keys shall be visually discernible, and discernible either through touch or sound.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	

## Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products – Detail

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) Self contained products shall be usable by people with disabilities without requiring an end-user to attach Assistive Technology to the product. Personal headsets for private listening are not Assistive Technology.	Supported with exception	<p>Apple Watch includes a screen reader called VoiceOver that enables the Apple Watch to be used without seeing the screen. VoiceOver is available in the prominent languages of over 30 countries.</p> <p>Apple Watch’s Siri supports natural-language voice commands to send messages, schedule meetings, place phone calls, control music playback, input text, check the weather, and more. Siri acknowledges voice commands.</p> <p>Siri is available in the prominent languages of 28 countries. For more information about Apple Watch accessibility features, see <a href="http://www.apple.com/accessibility">www.apple.com/accessibility</a></p> <p>Apple Watch includes support for mono audio output.</p>
(b) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	Not Applicable	
(c) Where a product utilizes touchscreens or contact-sensitive controls, an input method shall be provided that complies with 1194.23 (k) (1) through (4).	Supported with exception	<p>Apple Watch includes a screen reader called VoiceOver that enables the Apple Watch to be used without seeing the screen. VoiceOver is available in the prominent languages of over 30 countries.</p> <p>Apple Watch’s Siri supports natural-language voice commands to send messages, schedule meetings, place phone calls, control music playback, input text, check the weather, and more. Siri acknowledges voice commands.</p> <p>Siri is available in the prominent languages of 28 countries. For more information about Apple Watch accessibility features, see <a href="http://www.apple.com/accessibility">www.apple.com/accessibility</a></p> <p>Apple Watch includes support for mono audio output.</p>
(d) When biometric forms of user identification or control are used, an alternative form of identification or activation, which does not require the user to possess particular biological characteristics, shall also be provided.	Supported	In addition to wrist detect, a user can also input a passcode to open Apple Watch.

(e) When products provide auditory output, the audio signal shall be provided at a standard signal level through an industry standard connector that will allow for private listening. The product must provide the ability to interrupt, pause, and restart the audio at anytime.	<b>Supported</b>	Apple Watch supports Bluetooth audio accessories.
(f) When products deliver voice output in a public area, incremental volume control shall be provided with output amplification up to a level of at least 65 dB. Where the ambient noise level of the environment is above 45 dB, a volume gain of at least 20 dB above the ambient level shall be user selectable. A function shall be provided to automatically reset the volume to the default level after every use.		
(g) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	<b>Partially Supported</b>	Apple Watch uses color to convey information in On/Off labels, but provides the ability to enable labels in the Accessibility settings.  There may be areas in individual apps, such as displaying events in Calendar, that do not provide another means distinguishing a visual element.
(h) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a range of color selections capable of producing a variety of contrast levels shall be provided.	<b>Supported with exception</b>	Apple Watch provides adjustable brightness and an option to replace colors in iOS with grayscale. Apple Watch does not provide user-adjustable color selections.
(i) Products shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	<b>Not applicable</b>	
(j) Products which are freestanding, non-portable, and intended to be used in one location and which have operable controls shall comply with the following:	<b>Not applicable</b>	
(1) The position of any operable control shall be determined with respect to a vertical plane, which is 48 inches in length, centered on the operable control, and at the maximum protrusion of the product within the 48 inch length on products which are freestanding, non-portable, and intended to be used in one location and which have operable controls.	<b>Not applicable</b>	
(2) Where any operable control is 10 inches or less behind the reference plane, the height shall be 54 inches maximum and 15 inches minimum above the floor.	<b>Not applicable</b>	

(3) Where any operable control is more than 10 inches and not more than 24 inches behind the reference plane, the height shall be 46 inches maximum and 15 inches minimum above the floor.	<b>Not applicable</b>	
(4) Operable controls shall not be more than 24 inches behind the reference plane.	<b>Not applicable</b>	



## Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria – Detail

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	<b>Supported</b>	<p>Apple Watch includes a screen reader called VoiceOver that enables the Apple Watch to be used without seeing the screen. VoiceOver is available in the prominent languages of over 30 countries.</p> <p>Apple Watch’s Siri supports natural-language voice commands to send messages, schedule meetings, place phone calls, control music playback, input text, check the weather, and more. Siri acknowledges voice commands.</p> <p>Siri is available in the prominent languages of 28 countries. For more information about Apple Watch accessibility features, see <a href="http://www.apple.com/accessibility">www.apple.com/accessibility</a></p>
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	<b>Supported</b>	<p>Apple Watch includes a feature called Zoom, which can magnify the screen up to 1,500%. For more information about Apple Watch accessibility features, see <a href="http://www.apple.com/accessibility">www.apple.com/accessibility</a></p>
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided	<b>Partially Supported</b>	<p>The Taptic Engine provides haptic feedback for alerts and notifications. Mono audio is also available.</p>
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	<b>Partially Supported</b>	<p>Apple Watch supports Bluetooth audio accessories along with mono audio.</p>
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	<b>Partially Supported</b>	<p>Apple Watch does not require user speech for most actions. Information provided by Siri is already provided via apps and is not mandatory for device usage.</p>
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	<b>Not supported.</b>	

## **Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support – Detail**

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge	<b>Supported</b>	Product and support documentation are available on the Web in an EPUB and PDF format that is compatible with screen readers for the blind and visually impaired, can be displayed in large print using web browsers and software magnifiers for those with low vision at <a href="http://www.apple.com/support">www.apple.com/support</a> and can be printed using a personal computer and suitable printing device.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	<b>Supported</b>	Information about Apple product accessibility and compatibility features is available on the Web in an HTML format that is compatible with screen readers for the blind and visually impaired, can be displayed in large print using web browsers and software magnifiers for those with low vision at <a href="http://www.apple.com/accessibility">http://www.apple.com/accessibility</a> and can be printed using a personal computer and suitable printing device.
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	<b>Supported</b>	E-mail, telephone, and support via the Web are available.

**DISCLAIMERS:**

Some features described in this document are not available in all areas, may be subject to additional fees or payments, and may be dependent on your cellular carrier network policies and wireless service plan.

Apple Watch includes watchOS, Magnetic Charging Cable, and USB Power Adapter.

Other accessories or products mentioned in this document (e.g., assistive devices, Bluetooth audio accessories, adapters and so on) are sold separately by Apple and/or third parties.

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