New Regulation effective 1/1/2015

- DIR Accessibility / EIR Rules - Title 1, Chapter 206, Rule §206.70 of the Texas Administrative Code and in Title 1, Chapter 213 of the Texas Administrative Code.
Requirements

Section 2054.454 of the Texas Government Code and Title 1, Rule § 213.37 of the Texas Administrative Code state that each Texas state agency must develop, procure, maintain, and use accessible EIRs that conform to the DIR Accessibility Rules to provide for access by Persons with Disabilities.
What is EIR?

Electronic and Information Resources (EIRs) - defined by statute and rule to include, but not be limited to, information resources and any equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment .....
What’s Included

- Computers (mobile or desktop)
- Office Equipment
- Web Application Software
- All computer software
- Telephones, Telecommunication Products
- Internet Web Sites, Hosted Web Solutions
- Multimedia Resources (Videos, CDs, DVDs)
- Information resources provided by hosted or managed contract providers
What’s Not Included

- Equipment that includes embedded technology (e.g. HVAC equipment, laboratory equipment)
Applicability intended audiences

- Agency employees who purchase EIR products and/or services, or any other entity that purchases EIR on behalf of the Texas A&M AgriLife Agencies (no dollar guidelines)
- Individuals or entities (e.g., application developers, web content managers, vendors or third parties) that develop and/or change Texas A&M AgriLife EIR. (Internally by faculty or staff or outsourced)
- Units that own or operationally support EIR.
EIR Owner

- **Owner of an Electronic and Information Resource (EIR owner)** – A person responsible for a business function at the Agency who determines controls for, and oversees the development, acquisition, and/or use of, EIR supporting that business function.
What’s Required for EIR Purchases

• Agency personnel shall follow EIR procurement procedures and processes which support the acquisition of accessible EIR. (TBD)

• Agency personnel who acquire EIR shall require vendors to provide accessibility information for EIR products or services, through one of the following methods.

  • Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs) or other equivalent reporting templates (preferred); or

  • Credible evidence of the vendor’s capability or ability to produce accessible EIR products and services. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a vendor’s internal accessibility policy documents, contractual warranties for accessibility, accessibility testing documents, and examples of prior work results.
What’s Required for Web Sites

• The EIR owner is responsible for ensuring developed, procured, or materially changed EIR undergo accessibility testing to validate compliance with the technical accessibility standards. Accessibility testing tools and resources can be found on the Texas A&M IT Accessibility website.

• Accessibility testing for information resource technology projects, as described in 1 TAC §213.38(g), shall include the following actions.
  
  • Accessibility testing shall be coordinated with the EIR Accessibility Coordinator.
  
  • Accessibility testing validation procedures and results shall be documented and a copy provided to the EIR Accessibility Coordinator in a timely manner.
What justifies an Exception?

Exception - a significant difficulty or expense exception to the DIR Accessibility Rules that is applicable to the procurement or development of a specific EIR by the Agencies

Electronic and Information Resource (EIR) Accessibility Exception Request
http://agrilife.org/admin/files/2013/05/ag-906instructions.pdf
Next Steps

- Finalize Rules & Procedures
- Creation of AgriLife Accessibility Coordinator
- Training Program development necessary to meet all accessibility-related rules.
- TAMUS – OGC Provide legal assistance with DIR Accessibility Rules.
How to operate in the meantime

For all applicable EIR purchases between $5K to $10K

- Begin asking vendors for EIR compliancy documentation (e.g. VPAT, Section 508 Compliancy documentation) File with Purchasing Paperwork (LaserFiche)
- If no EIR compliancy exists, initiate an exception request using form AG-906 Form.
Questions?