



**Document management applications—
Electronic document file format
enhancement for accessibility**

Part 1: Use of ISO 32000-1 (PDF/UA-1)

STANDARDS
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Australian Standard[®]

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-021, Records and Document Management Systems.

The objective of this Standard is to specify the use of ISO 32000-1:2008 to produce accessible electronic documents through the inclusion of a variety of semantic information and defining requirements for conforming readers and conforming assistive technology.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 14289-1:2014, *Document management applications—Electronic document file format enhancement for accessibility—Part 1: Use of ISO 32000-1 (PDF/UA-1)*.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (a) In the source text ‘this part of ISO 14289’ should read ‘this Australian Standard’.
- (b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

None of the normative references in the source document have been adopted as Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards.

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INTRODUCTION

PDF is a digital format for representing documents. PDF files may be created natively in PDF form, converted from other electronic formats, or digitized from paper. Businesses, governments, libraries, archives and other institutions and individuals around the world use PDF to represent considerable bodies of important information. These PDF files should be made accessible to users with disabilities.

The accessibility of a document is dependent on the inclusion of a variety of semantic information in a document such as (but not limited to) machine-recoverable text presented in a declared language, logical structure of content, and organization of that content in pages, sections and paragraphs. Semantic information can also contain a variety of descriptive metadata, such as alternative text for images. The primary purpose of ISO 14289 (known as PDF/UA) is to define how to represent electronic documents in the PDF format in a manner that allows the file to be accessible. This is accomplished by identifying the set of PDF components that may be used and restrictions on the form of their use. PDF/UA is intended as a companion standard, to be used in conjunction with ISO 32000, ISO 19005, ISO 15920 and other standards as may apply for the purpose of achieving accessibility or as mandated by this International Standard. In order for PDF/UA conforming files to be truly accessible, requirements on conforming readers and conforming assistive technology are also stipulated herein. By itself, PDF/UA does not necessarily ensure that the visual appearance of the content accurately reflects any original source material used to create the conforming file. For example, the process used to create a conforming file might substitute fonts, reflow text, downsample images, or use lossy compression. Organizations that need to ensure that a conforming file is an accurate representation of original source material may need to impose additional requirements on the processes that generate the conforming file beyond those imposed by this International Standard. In addition, it is important for those organizations to implement policies and practices regarding the inspection of conforming files for correct placement of accessibility information.

AIIM (an accredited standards developing organization) maintains an ongoing series of application notes for guiding developers and users of this International Standard. These application notes will be displayed, when available, at <http://www.aiim.org/pdfua/app-notes>. AIIM will also retain copies of the specific non-ISO normative references in this International Standard that are publicly available electronic documents.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

Document management applications—Electronic document file format enhancement for accessibility**Part 1:
Use of ISO 32000-1 (PDF/UA-1)****1 Scope**

This part of ISO 14289 specifies the use of ISO 32000-1:2008 to produce accessible electronic documents.

This part of ISO 14289 is not applicable to:

- specific processes for converting paper or electronic documents to the PDF/UA format;
- specific technical design, user interface, implementation, or operational details of rendering;
- specific physical methods of storing these documents, such as media and storage conditions;
- required computer hardware and/or operating systems.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 32000-1:2008, *Document management — Accessible document format — Part 1: PDF 1.7*

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, W3C Recommendation, 11 December 2008. Available from the Internet <<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>>.

3 Terms and definition

For the purpose of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

**3.1
assistive technology****AT**

software and/or hardware used by a person with a disability that provides alternative controls and/or renditions to facilitate their access to and usage of available functionality and information

**3.2
alternate description**

description of a structure element and its children

[SOURCE: ISO 32000-1:2008, 14.9.3]

Note 1 to entry: ISO 32000-1 uses both “alternate text” and “alternate description” to refer to the same item.