



Homeland
Security



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BITS & BYTES

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Bits & Bytes is distributed electronically on a monthly basis to all DSO, ADSO, SO, and FSO-IS and CS Officers.

Web Site Accessibility Standards

We need to make sure that anyone who needs to use one of our Auxiliary web sites is able to do so, no matter what physical limitations they may have. Accordingly, all Auxiliary websites must meet section 508 of the Workforce Investment act dated August 7, 1998. This enables handicapped viewers to navigate our websites and to understand the linking and graphics.

A simple explanation of why we require the items on our checklist can be found in the CS Guide at <http://csguide.auxservices.org/2.4.php>. The handicapped viewers have software that reads our websites and converts text to sound files of speech and plays that back so what we enter is read aloud to the viewer

The HTML title is read by visitor's software and announces to them what site they have called up on their web browser. That is why it's important to not use shorthand phrasing and what I like to call AUXESE. It's hard to pronounce USCGAUX even though we know what it means — and we're human! Just imagine what an unthinking computer can do to "simple" English!

Alternative text, or image tags on all images, is required to meet section 508 and we need to comply with the spirit of that requirement. The software converts all on-screen text to the spoken word. For example, it's good web programming practice to add an ALT text to image place holders. But while the ALT tag words, "boat.gif" meet the law, they do nothing for the viewer when they hear those words without also being able to see the image. An ALT of "Coast Guard Auxiliary facility on patrol" on the other hand, tells the visitor over what the mouse is hovering and so enhances the visit to our website.

Our checklist also says that if you use a graphic in the site's or page's title the ALT must read "U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary". That of course, is to let the visitor know where they are. We are not limited to that ALT but that much *must* be there. You could have something like, "United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, 9th Eastern Region, Division 44, Flotilla 12 Server the Greater Detroit Area."

The ALCOST that announces these requirements is posted on the CS Guide site at <http://csguide.auxservices.org/4.4.2.php>

--Jerry Turley [BC-IWT](#)

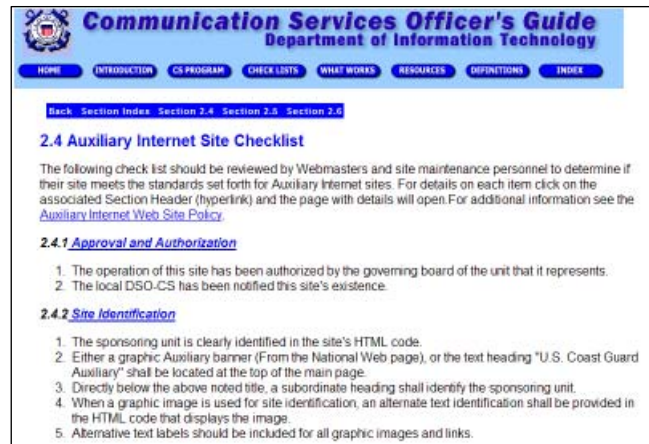
Website Approval Check

If you have an approved website on the national server do you know if it is still up to the high quality that it was when you first posted your pages? When was the last time you checked you site to be sure that it would meet the checklist at <http://csguide.auxservices.org/2.4.php> ?

The "I" department staff will be doing a check of all websites that carry the name Coast Guard Auxiliary. With over 700 sites the process will probably turn into being an ongoing and somewhat daunting task. All sites on the national link list will be checked on a random basis. Those sites failing to meet the checklist will be notified thru the CS chain of leadership and management.

A 'snapshot' look will also be made for other items such as load time and linking problems. Those items will be sent to the webmaster of the site.

__Jerry Turley [BC-IWT](#)



New AUXDATA Code: 65C

Effective immediately there is an additional code in AUXDATA - 65C for use by the members who are involved with their Boating Law Administrators (BLA) or their staff.

You will use it on the Activity Report - Mission, ANSC 7030 when reporting any hours spent in meetings with a state BLA or their BLA staff. (Note: these hours are NOT to be reported on the Member Activity Log, ANSC Form 7029.)

State RBS Outreach - 65C State RBS -

Any hours spent in meetings with a state BLA or state BLA staff.

The new mission entry will be:

65C U UCG A UCGADMS LO BLA

__Marilyn McBain, [DVC-IS](#)

AUX Student Support Update

You may already know about the USCG Auxiliary C-School portal at <http://cschool.auxservices.org/>. What you may not know is that it's been updated with the latest 'n greatest url's for the Student Support sites.

When you go out to that site, you'll find that it's "one-stop shopping." Click on any of the labeled hyperlinks, and you'll be taken directly to the site dedicated to that particular Auxiliary C-School. Here is the list you'll find there:

- [AUX-04](#) Distance Education Technology Training (Basic)
- [AUX-06](#) ATON & Chart Updating – Private Aids
- [AUX-10](#) Info Systems (AUXDATA/AUXINFO) Staff Training
- [AUX-12](#) Public Affairs and Marketing Training
- [AUX-17](#) Crew Resource Management/Operational Risk Management
- [AUX-18](#) Aviation Spatial Disorientation Training

This list of C-Schools will grow as more Student Support websites come online!



How To Library

Do you ever scratch your head, wondering to yourself, "just how exactly am I supposed to do *that*?" Well friend, scratch no more. Instead go on out to <http://home.auxidept.org/howto.htm> and see the list of "How to" sites out there.

This site is designed to enhance the technical support services we provide to our I-CS Officers. It is intended to augment the National IT Department newsletter *Bits & Bytes*.

