PDF9

Issue

This document has no headings marked up. What appear as headings are just styles.

Success Criteria

1.3.1 (Info and Relationships)

2.4.1 (Bypass Blocks)

Description

The purpose of this technique is to show how headings in PDF documents can be marked so that they are recognized by assistive technologies. Headings are marked up using the heading elements (H, H1, H2, ... H6) in the structure tree. This is typically accomplished by using a tool for authoring PDF.

Heading markup can be used:

to indicate start of main content

to mark up section headings within the main content area

to demarcate different navigational sections, such as top or main navigation, left or secondary navigation, and footer navigation

to mark up images (containing text) which have the appearance of headings visually.

Because headings indicate the start of important sections of content, it is possible for assistive technology users to access the list of headings and to jump directly to the appropriate heading and begin reading the content. This ability to "skim" the content through the headings and go directly to content of interest significantly speeds interaction for users who would otherwise access the content slowly.