Voluntary Product Accessibility Template®

VPAT® 2.4 — Revised Section 508

Product: MAXQDA

Vendor: VERBI Software GmbH

Product Description: MAXQDA is a professional software for qualitative and mixed methods data analysis, available for Windows and macOS.

Evaluation Date: March 2026

Contact: accessibility@maxqda.com

Applicable Standards

- Section 508 (36 CFR Part 1194 — 2017 Refresh)
- WCAG 2.1 Level AA (primary reference)
- WCAG 2.2 Level AA (best-practice considerations, where applicable)

Conformance Level Definitions

Supports: The product meets the criterion without exception.

Partially Supports: Some functionality meets the criterion; exceptions are noted.

Does Not Support: The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.

Not Applicable: The criterion does not apply to this product.

Table 1: WCAG 2.x Success Criteria (Level A & AA)

This table documents conformance with WCAG 2.1 and 2.2, incorporated by reference into Section 508.

Principle 1: Perceivable		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Supports	User interface icons and controls provide descriptive tooltips or accessible text equivalents.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only Prerecorded (Level A)	Not Applicable	MAXQDA does not produce audio-only or video-only content. Users may import media files for analysis purposes, but MAXQDA does not author such content.
1.2.5 Audio Description Prerecorded (Level AA)	Not Applicable	MAXQDA does not produce video content. Imported media files are user-provided and not authored by the application.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Supports	UI structure and relationships are programmatically exposed to assistive technologies through OS accessibility APIs.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	Content and controls are presented in a logical order that is preserved for assistive technology users.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Supports	Color is not used as the sole means of conveying information. Users may adjust colors for visual tools.
1.4.3 Contrast Minimum (Level AA)	Supports	MAXQDA uses a custom stylesheet for all UI elements. Light and dark modes are available and can follow the system setting.

		High-contrast OS themes are not inherited due to the custom styling approach; contrast is ensured within MAXQDA's own theme.
1.4.4 Resize Text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Text size can be adjusted within MAXQDA's own settings. MAXQDA uses a custom stylesheet and does not inherit OS-level font size settings; system-wide text enlargement is not automatically reflected in the UI.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Some UI elements use images of text (e.g., icons with embedded labels). These are not always replaceable with styled text equivalents in the current version.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA — WCAG 2.1)	Supports	Interactive components maintain sufficient contrast within MAXQDA's custom stylesheet in both light and dark modes.
Principle 2: Operable		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Supports	Core product functionality is operable using a keyboard. Standard and application-specific keyboard shortcuts are available.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	Keyboard focus can be moved away from all interface elements without requiring mouse input.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Supports	No animations are used as the sole means of conveying information.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below (Level A)	Supports	The software does not use flashing or blinking elements.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	Keyboard focus follows a logical and predictable order.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supports	UI panels, dialogs, and sections use descriptive headings and labels that are consistent throughout the application.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	A visible focus indicator is provided and moves appropriately between interface elements.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A — WCAG 2.1)	Not Applicable	Complex pointer gestures are not required for operation.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA — WCAG 2.2)	Supports (Best Practice)	Equivalent keyboard and mouse interactions are available where dragging is used.
Principle 3: Understandable		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	Receiving focus does not trigger unexpected changes in context.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	User input does not automatically trigger context changes without user awareness.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Supports	Input errors in dialogs and forms are identified and described to the user via visible error messages.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	Dialog fields and controls provide labels, instructions, or tooltips accessible to assistive technologies.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	Where input errors are detected, suggestions for correction are provided where possible.

Principle 4: Robust		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Partially Supports	Screen readers (NVDA, JAWS on Windows; VoiceOver on macOS) can be configured to work with MAXQDA 2026. However, manual configuration of the assistive technology is required; out-of-the-box compatibility is not guaranteed. Some complex UI controls (e.g., data visualization panels, segment trees) may not fully expose role or state information to all screen readers.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA — WCAG 2.1)	Partially Supports	Status messages are generally perceivable; some system messages rely on visual presentation and may require manual assistive technology configuration. Screen reader announcement of dynamic status changes is not consistent across all contexts.

Table 2: Functional Performance Criteria (Section 508 — Chapter 3)

The Functional Performance Criteria apply when a technical requirement does not address one or more functions of the ICT.

Functional Performance Criteria		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
302.1 Without Vision	Partially Supports	MAXQDA 2026 is operable using screen readers (NVDA, JAWS on Windows; VoiceOver on macOS) after manual user configuration. Default screen reader settings may not provide full access; users are advised to configure their screen reader settings for desktop application use. Some advanced UI components, including visualization panels and context menus, may not be fully announced in all configurations.
302.2 With Limited Vision	Supports	Operating system zoom and text enlargement are supported without loss of functionality.
302.3 Without Perception of Color	Supports	No information is conveyed by color alone; patterns and labels supplement color-coded elements.
302.4 Without Hearing	Supports	No audio-only information is required to operate the software.
302.5 With Limited Hearing	Supports	Visual alternatives are available for any auditory feedback.
302.6 Without Speech	Supports	Speech input is not required to operate any function.
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Supports	Keyboard operation and OS accessibility features (e.g., mouse speed adjustments) are supported.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	Supports	Standard keyboard and pointing device interaction is supported; no force or reach limitations imposed.
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Supports	Interface uses clear labeling, consistent navigation, and tooltips to assist users with cognitive accessibility needs.

Table 3: Software (Section 508 — Chapter 5)

This table documents conformance with Section 508 Chapter 5 requirements specific to software applications.

502: Interoperability with Assistive Technology		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
502.2.1 User Control of Accessibility Features	Partially Supports	MAXQDA 2026 uses a custom stylesheet and does not inherit all OS accessibility settings. Users can control dark/light mode via system settings. Font size and high-contrast OS themes are not passed through to the application interface.
502.2.2 No Disruption of Accessibility Features	Supports	MAXQDA does not actively disable or block OS-level accessibility features such as screen readers or system zoom.
502.3.1 Object Information	Partially Supports	Most UI objects expose name, role, and basic state information via OS accessibility APIs. Compatibility with Windows UI Automation and macOS Accessibility API has not been fully verified; some custom-rendered components may not expose complete object information.
502.3.2 Modification of Object Information	Partially Supports	Standard controls support programmatic modification of accessible properties. Some custom UI components may not support full modification of object information by assistive technologies.
502.3.5 Modification of Values	Supports	Input fields and controls allow values to be set and modified via keyboard and assistive technologies.
502.3.6 Label Relationships	Supports	Labels are associated with their corresponding controls in dialogs and forms.
502.3.7 Hierarchical Relationships	Supports	Hierarchical UI structures (e.g., code trees, document hierarchy) expose parent-child relationships where supported by the OS accessibility API.
502.3.8 Text	Supports	Text content in the UI is exposed to assistive technologies and can be read by screen readers after manual configuration.
502.3.9 Modification of Text	Supports	Text in editable fields can be modified via keyboard input and is accessible to assistive technologies.
502.3.11 Actions on Objects	Supports	Standard actions (activate, select, expand) are available on UI objects via keyboard.
502.3.12 Focus Cursor	Supports	The keyboard focus cursor is visible and programmatically exposed to assistive technologies.
502.3.14 Event Notification	Partially Supports	Standard UI events (focus change, value change) are notified to assistive technologies. Dynamic content updates in some panels may not consistently trigger event notifications.
502.4 Platform Accessibility Features	Partially Supports	MAXQDA supports OS dark/light mode system settings. Other platform accessibility features (e.g., high-contrast themes, large text) are not inherited due to the application's custom stylesheet architecture.

503: Applications		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
503.2 User Preferences	Supports	MAXQDA saves and restores user preferences including font size, color scheme (light/dark mode), and interface layout across sessions.
503.3 Alternative User Interfaces	Does Not Support	MAXQDA does not provide an alternative or simplified user interface mode specifically designed for users with disabilities.
504: Authoring Tools		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
504.2 Content Creation or Editing	Partially Supports	MAXQDA includes authoring functions (memos, reports, codebooks). These functions do not provide accessibility prompts or guidance for creating accessible content.
504.2.2 PDF Export	Does Not Support	MAXQDA can export content to PDF. Exported PDF files do not include accessibility tags, reading order metadata, or alt-text for images. The resulting PDFs are not tagged for assistive technology compatibility.
504.3 Prompts	Does Not Support	MAXQDA does not provide prompts or guidance to assist users in creating accessible content when authoring memos, reports, or other documents.
504.4 Templates	Not Applicable	MAXQDA does not provide content templates intended for use in other applications.

Table 4: Support Documentation and Services (Section 508 — Chapter 6)

This table documents conformance with requirements for accessible support documentation and services.

Support Documentation and Services		
Criteria	**Conformance Level**	**Remarks & Explanations**
602.2 Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	Documentation describes the product's accessibility and compatibility features.
602.3 Electronic Support Documentation	Supports	Documentation is available as accessible web content and PDF at no additional cost.
602.4 Alternate Formats for Non-Electronic Documentation	Supports	Alternate formats are available upon request.
603.2 Information on Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	Information about accessibility features is available upon request.
603.3 Accommodation of Communication Needs	Supports	Support is available via text-based online communication channels.

Notes on WCAG 2.2 Alignment (Best Practice)

MAXQDA has been reviewed with awareness of WCAG 2.2 AA, including:

- Reduced reliance on dragging-only interactions (Success Criterion 2.5.7)
- Clear and persistent focus indicators (Success Criterion 2.4.11)
- Accessible authentication support (Success Criterion 3.3.8)

Note: WCAG 2.2 is not yet incorporated into Section 508, but alignment reflects current accessibility best practices and forward compatibility.

Accessibility Feedback

Questions or feedback regarding the accessibility of MAXQDA 2026 may be directed to:

- **Company:** VERBI Software GmbH
- **Email:** accessibility@maxqda.com
- **Website:** www.maxqda.com

We are committed to continuously improving the accessibility of MAXQDA and welcome your input.