July 16, 2026

DEPWD

Draft would require ICT products and services to meet IS 17802

DEPwD draft S.O. 3962(E) would require websites, apps, software, digital content and ICT goods offered in India to meet IS 17802, on deadlines set by turnover.

THE DEPARTMENT OF Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, issued notification S.O. 3962(E), dated July 16, 2026, publishing draft rules to amend the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017. It appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 3794, dated July 20, 2026; the Gazette ID, CG-DL-E-23072026-274669, and the digital signature date the e-Gazette copy July 23, 2026. The Central Government proposes the rules under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 100 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, read with section 40. It follows the Supreme Court's judgment of November 8, 2024 in Rajive Raturi v. Union of India, which directed the Union Government to set non-negotiable rules apart from the guidelines in rule 15. It would replace clause (c) of rule 15(1) with accessibility standards for information and communication technology (ICT) products, services, documentation and digital content.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

DEPwD

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July 16, 2026

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Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

DOCUMENT

S.O. 3962(E), draft Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Draft would require ICT products and services to meet IS 17802

DEPwD · July 16, 2026

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, issued notification S.O. 3962(E), dated July 16, 2026, publishing draft rules to amend the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017. It appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 3794, dated July 20, 2026; the Gazette ID, CG-DL-E-23072026-274669, and the digital signature date the e-Gazette copy July 23, 2026. The Central Government proposes the rules under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 100 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, read with section 40. It follows the Supreme Court's judgment of November 8, 2024 in Rajive Raturi v. Union of India, which directed the Union Government to set non-negotiable rules apart from the guidelines in rule 15. It would replace clause (c) of rule 15(1) with accessibility standards for information and communication technology (ICT) products, services, documentation and digital content.

The clause would apply to every establishment, in India or outside India, that manufactures, designs, develops, exercises decisive technical control over or makes available, directly or indirectly, a covered item to persons in India for public or consumer use. The items are websites, apps and software, with their documentation and support services; digital content and electronic documents; ICT-based public facilities and services; hardware with two-way voice or video communication; other ICT hardware and electronic goods for everyday use; ICT-based consumer products; ICT-based accessories for persons with disabilities; and ICT-based products used in public facilities and services. Each must comply with IS 17802 (Part 1): 2021 and IS 17802 (Part 2): 2022, as amended from time to time, and with any sectoral regulator's accessibility requirements. Where the rules and sectoral standards or guidelines are inconsistent, the higher or more stringent requirement prevails.

Every establishment must furnish an Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR) for these items, free of cost with the other documentation and on its website or app. It must be published in a human-readable format, such as HTML or accessible PDF, and a machine-readable one, such as JSON or XML; failing to publish both is non-compliance. The ACR reports conformance with IS 17802 (Part 1) as tested under IS 17802 (Part 2), in a recognized format such as the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT). The establishment must review and verify each ACR before the item is launched, re-test it and update it before any major change is deployed, and review, test and update it at least once every two years even without a major change. Individuals or organizations with accessibility expertise must prepare, review or verify it, and their contact details and credentials are published in it. For content, it covers the platform or tool that produces the content, not each item. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is to notify the reporting format within 90 days of the notification of the rules, as part of IS 17802.

Establishments with a turnover of ₹500 crore or more would have one year from the publication of the rules to meet the clauses of IS 17802 (Part 1): 2021 listed in Schedule I, for websites, apps,

software, digital content and ICT-based public services, and in Schedule II, for hardware, consumer products, accessories and products used in public facilities. Establishments below that turnover would have eighteen months. Turnover is for the preceding financial year and includes that of any establishment that controls it, is controlled by it or is under common control with it, where they make covered items available in India. All establishments must meet the standards in their entirety within two years, for the purposes of section 46 of the Act, and the rules prevail over any inconsistent guidelines or standards. Government establishments may not procure, deploy, upgrade or renew items that do not comply, and ministries' quality control orders are to be modified within ninety days to include compliance with the rules, wherever applicable.

An establishment that does not comply is liable to a fine under the Act, and the Chief Commissioner or a State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities may inquire into it and impose fines under section 89 of the Act. It must remedy the failure, including with an updated ACR, within ninety days of the competent authority's order. If it does not, enhanced fines follow, and continued non-compliance can lead the sectoral regulator or the ministry or department concerned to suspend or cancel a registration, certification, authorization or approval. Any authority that licenses, registers or certifies a covered item must require an ACR or an accessibility compliance undertaking for its grant, renewal or continuation. The draft does not state the amount of any fine. It was to be taken into consideration thirty days after copies of the Gazette were made available to the public, and objections and suggestions could be sent to Ram Charan Meena, Under Secretary, DEPwD, Pandit Deen Dayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, 110003, or rcmeena.79@gov.in. The draft gives no closing date; counted from July 23, 2026, the date of the e-Gazette copy, that period ended on August 22, 2026. Up to October 27, 2026, no final rules had appeared in the e-Gazette.

Issued by	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Document	S.O. 3962(E), draft Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2026
Dated	July 16, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 3794, July 20, 2026 (Gazette ID CG-DL-E-23072026-274669)
Amends	Rule 15(1)(c) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 (replaced)
Applies to	Establishments in India or outside India that manufacture, design, develop, exercise decisive technical control over or make available websites, apps, software, digital content, electronic documents, ICT-based public facilities and services, ICT hardware, ICT-based

	consumer products and accessories to persons in India for public or consumer use
Standards	IS 17802 (Part 1): 2021, tested under IS 17802 (Part 2): 2022, as amended from time to time; any sectoral regulator's accessibility requirements as well
Accessibility Conformance Report	Free of cost with the documentation and on the website or app; human-readable (such as HTML or accessible PDF) and machine-readable (such as JSON or XML); re-tested before any major change is deployed and reviewed at least every two years
ACR signed by	The nodal officer designated in clause (H) or, for any other establishment, a person in a senior managerial position not below the level of Director or designated partner, or equivalent
Deadlines	Turnover of ₹500 crore or more: one year; less than ₹500 crore: eighteen months; IS 17802 in its entirety: two years; all from publication of the rules
Exempt	Archived content, clearly identified as archived and not intended for active public use or update
Also provided	A Grievance Redressal Officer in each establishment; Deputy and Chief Nodal Officers in each ministry and regulator; a National Accessibility ICT Committee within 90 days; a review every three years
Takes effect	As drafted: on the date of publication in the Official Gazette
Comment period	Thirty days from the date copies of the Gazette are made available to the public; no end date is given. Counted from July 23, 2026, the date of the e-Gazette copy, thirty days ended on August 22, 2026
Send comments to	Ram Charan Meena, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Room No 11 A, 5th Floor, Pandit Deen Dayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, 110003, or rcmeena.79@gov.in
Status	No final rules in the e-Gazette up to October 27, 2026
Related	DEPwD draft S.O. 5241(E), dated September 8, 2026 (Gazette No. 5034, September 24, 2026; Gazette ID CG-DL-E-03102026-276767): a new clause (d) in rule 15(1) on assistive products and technology
Signed by	Girish C. Hosur, Jt. Secy.
File number	F. No. I-15/13/2026-AIC

Proposed deadlines by turnover, counted from publication of the rules

Turnover of the establishment	Websites, apps, software, digital content and ICT-based public services (Schedule I)	ICT hardware, consumer products, accessories and products used in public facilities (Schedule II)	IS 17802 in its entirety
₹500 crore or more	One year	One year	Two years
Less than ₹500 crore	Eighteen months	Eighteen months	Two years

The notification (draft rules) (PDF, 911 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-23072026-274669.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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