



# The wa11y QA Workflow

A comprehensive end-to-end process for ensuring accessibility quality in web products. Our systematic approach catches issues early and ensures inclusive experiences for all users.

"Catch it early, fix it cheap. Catch it late, fix it expensive."



# Phase 1: The Requirement

Target Standard: WCAG 2.2 Level AA



## Design Review

Verify Figma files include complete annotations for headings, landmarks, ARIA labels, and descriptive alt text for all meaningful images.



## Acceptance Criteria

Confirm Jira tickets specify accessibility requirements: keyboard navigation paths, screen reader announcements, focus management, and color contrast ratios.



## Quality Gate

Tickets missing accessibility criteria are returned to Product/Design. No exceptions. Clear requirements prevent costly rework downstream.

# Phase 2: Automated Checks

## The First Filter – Development & CI/CD Pipeline



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### Local Testing

Developers run **axe DevTools** or **WAVE** browser extensions before committing code to catch obvious violations immediately.

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### Pipeline Integration

Automated accessibility tests (cypress-axe, jest-axe, or pa11y) execute on every Pull Request automatically.

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### Enforcement Rule

If automated score drops or "Critical" issues are detected, the build **fails automatically**. No merge until resolved.

# Phase 3: Manual QA

## The Deep Dive – Human Audit Required

**Prerequisite:** Automated checks must pass before manual testing begins. This ensures QA time focuses on nuanced issues machines cannot catch.

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### Keyboard Navigation

Tab through entire user flow from start to finish.

- Verify visible focus indicators on all interactive elements
- Confirm logical tab order matches visual layout
- Test for keyboard traps and ensure escape mechanisms

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### Screen Reader Test

Use NVDA (Windows) or VoiceOver (Mac) to navigate the interface.

- Validate meaningful announcements for all content
- Check form labels, error messages, and success states
- Verify heading hierarchy and landmark regions

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### Visual Reflow

Test zoom levels and responsive behavior thoroughly.

- Zoom to 200% and 400% to verify content remains visible
- Ensure no horizontal scrolling or overlapping text
- Confirm touch targets meet minimum 44x44px size

# Phase 4: Logging A11y Bugs

## Standardizing Defect Reporting for Clear Communication

### Requirement 1: Severity Classification

- **Critical:** Complete blocker preventing core task completion (e.g., "Checkout button unreachable by keyboard")
- **Major:** Significant barrier requiring difficult workaround to proceed
- **Minor:** Cosmetic issue or slight annoyance (e.g., "Alt text contains minor typo")

### Requirement 2: Environment Details

Specify exact testing configuration including screen reader, browser version, and operating system (e.g., "NVDA 2023.1 + Chrome 120 on Windows 11").

### Requirement 3: Evidence Attachment

Include screenshots highlighting focus indicators, or short video recordings demonstrating problematic announcements or navigation flows.

# Phase 5: Definition of Done

## The Release Gate – Non-Negotiable Quality Standards

### Release Checklist Requirements



#### Automated Tests Passed

Zero errors in CI/CD pipeline. All automated accessibility checks show green status with no regressions.



#### Manual Bugs Resolved

All **Critical** and **Major** accessibility defects must be fixed and verified before release approval.



#### Documentation Updated

VPAT (Voluntary Product Accessibility Template) or ACR (Accessibility Conformance Report) updated to reflect current state, if applicable.



### Strict Policy

We do **not** ship known Critical accessibility blockers under any circumstances. Quality and inclusivity are non-negotiable values.

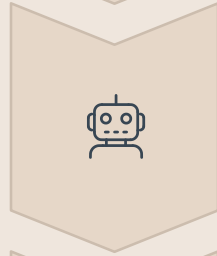
# The Complete Workflow

## End-to-End Process Overview



### Requirements

Design review and acceptance criteria validation



### Automated

DevTools and CI/CD pipeline checks



### Manual QA

Keyboard, screen reader, and visual testing



### Bug Logging

Standardized defect documentation



### Release Gate

Definition of Done verification

# Quality is not an act, it is a habit.

The wa1ly workflow embeds accessibility into every stage of product development. By following this systematic process, teams build inclusive experiences that serve all users while maintaining development velocity and quality standards.

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