# Colour contrast ratios

## Colour contrast explained

Colour contrast is an important facet of accessibility, as Taylor & Francis work to ensure that all titles meet the requirements of the European Accessibility Act and the Americans with Disability Act (Title II Section 508). Noncompliance risks financial penalties and ultimately the possible removal of the book from sale in the EU and the US.

The accessibility commitment Taylor & Francis has made includes work to ensure those with colour vision deficiency can utilize our titles. Colour vision deficiency reduces a person’s ability to distinguish between colours, particularly the different shades of yellow, red, and green. For those with colour vision deficiency, low contrast colours are difficult to read when text contrasts poorly with background colours, while high-contrast colours are easier to read when paired together.

Taylor & Francis’ commitment to the requirements of accessibility legislation entails requiring the contrast between text and any background colour, and colour used in line figures and tables, meets minimum values, which are expressed in ratios. Text colour contrast versus background colour must have a minimum ratio of 4.5:1 to meet [WCAG 2.2 AA requirements](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/rYCfCADQm5UrmmrW8fYS4pP?domain=webaim.org). All our products need to achieve these standards when being sold from 2025. Designs that don't meet the requirements now may be altered further down the line by our content management team.

## Colour contrast in artwork

For accessibility best practice, avoid using colour to denote meaning, even in charts or graphs.

When colour is used in artwork, the colour contrast ratio must be sufficient in images with text, lines, and areas of significance when those areas are adjacent or overlapping. The colours on top (usually text and lines) must have sufficient contrast ratios to any colour underneath. As with text vs background colour, the contrast ratio must be at least 4.5:1.

Colours in author-supplied art may need to be adjusted by production vendors to meet the necessary ratios, or text/lines may need compound colours (e.g. a white line outlined with black) to assist in contrast across gradients.

This guidance also applies to shades of grey used in b/w figures.

Items that are not text, lines, or areas of significance are excluded from this requirement. Photographs do not need to have colour contrast fixed.

## Taylor & Francis Goals

Taylor & Francis is committed to providing an inclusive experience for all our readers, to help those readers reach their highest potential. Support of inclusion and accessibility is important to us as a business and for the communities we serve. You can learn more about colour contrast from [Adobe](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/8tzLCBB8n5tPZZP4yFWrT1y?domain=helpx.adobe.com).