



Center for Plain Language
————— Make it clear —————

2014 Report Card

The Center for Plain Language is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. We help government agencies and businesses write clearly. Since 2012, the Center has reviewed how Federal agencies comply with the Plain Writing Act of 2010 that requires the US government to use plain language in public documents and websites.

Letter grade scores are given in two areas:

Compliance

Agency homepage, senior officials and contact information, implementation plan, compliance reports, feedback mechanism, training program, response to our inquiry, provide information.

Plain writing

Based on documents supplied by the Departments/Bureaus or Agencies, we use software (Acrolinx) to look for spelling, grammar, readability, tone of voice, style, terminology. Center volunteers look at design elements, such as font, use of color, appropriateness of images.

Timeline

May 14 – Initial request sent via plain language e-mail address on Department site and plain language official

July 5, July 15 – Reminder notices sent

July 30 – Response deadline

August/September – Scoring

About Oct. 14 – Report card issued via press briefing with Rep. Bruce Braley of Iowa

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