



ARA-8.14 - Scanning Standards for Bureau Records

Administrative Rules Adopted by City Council (ARC)

Policy category: [Archives & Records Management](#)

Policy number: ARA-8.14

Search Code, Charter,
Policy

Keywords

Search

[ARA 8.14 Scanning Standards for Agency Records \(full text of policy\)](#) 271.96 KB

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum quality standards for scanned images of paper documents, when those images constitute official City records. The standards are intended to ensure the ongoing legibility, authenticity, and accessibility of the scanned images.

B. Policies

1. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) will be applied to all scanned text documents.
2. Accessibility features will be applied to all documents to maximize access for individuals with disabilities.
3. All scanned documents with a retention period of longer than 10 years will be made PDF/A compliant – part of ISO 19005-1 and 19005-2 standards for longevity.
4. System calibration and performance
 - A. The records will be scanned in order to render an exact duplication of the original.
 - B. The following Original Page Size Specifications will be followed:
 - I. Pages that are 11" x 17" or smaller will be scanned at their original size, front and back, excluding blank pages.
 - II. For pages that are larger than 11"x17" consult Archives & Records Management.
5. The following default image standards will be applied to scanned images:
 - A. Standard word processing and spreadsheet documents, invoices, PowerPoint presentations etc. (Retention period < 30

- years) – 300 dpi
- B. Standard word processing and spreadsheet documents, invoices, PowerPoint presentations etc. (Retention period > 30 years) – 400 dpi
- C. Photographs – 600 dpi
- D. Architectural drawings and maps – 600 dpi

C. Responsibilities

1. Agencies will ensure that scanner and software settings are set to comply with this policy for any scanned images that constitute official City records.
2. Archives & Records Management will provide information and training to help agencies meet the conditions established in this policy.

Auditor's Office Administrative Rule Information

Questions about this administrative rule may be directed to the [Archives & Records Management Division](#).

History

Ordinance No. 182637, passed by City Council April 1, 2009 and effective May 1, 2009.

Administratively renamed ARA-8.14 on December 6, 2022.

Adopted by the City Auditor on December 20, 2024, as interim rules, for a period of no greater than 180 days.

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