PRESS RELEASE

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INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TEST FOR WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY, USABILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY

WeCo announced today it is introducing the new "Access Check-In" website accessibility testing service. This service is designed to give content managers and development staff access to WeCo user-experience testers (CTCs), real people who live with one or more of the four major disability classifications (sight, hearing, mobility and cognitive disabilities), to check the usability and functionality of websites and electronic documents during the development process. Such agile development is responsive to user feedback, and guides changes in an informed manner. This new website accessibility testing service also allows development teams to learn and experiment with what works and what does not–an especially important process when answering questions related to website accessibility.

When websites and electronic documents are developed without considering the needs of disabled users, they become difficult or impossible for these people to access. This may lead to legal and public relations ramifications. Lynn Wehrman, WeCo CEO, explains that "most organizations want to create websites and software that are easy for people living with disabilities to access. They just aren't sure if what they've created is accessible or not. WeCo's new Access Check-In service is a quick, low-cost way for web or software staff to ask one of our CTCs if what they designed works for them."

The types of projects that work well with the new Access Check-In website accessibility testing service include new and redeveloped webpages to check the links as they are developed, website documents such as PDF, Word, Power Point and Excel, online forms, webinar and online presentation formats and software products.

Access Check-In website accessibility service assists developers in catching potential mistakes by testing small changes as they are made, and provides website development staff with functional training in website accessibility by making fixes as they are needed. Questions about this new service can be discussed with WeCo Accessibility Specialists. They can assist customers in determining which disability classification might be best for them based upon their website or project. For example, if a web page has

a large number of images, maps, tables or charts, WeCo Accessibility Specialists would recommend that the customer request one of our CTCs who lives with a sight-related disability and uses screen reader software. This targeted information gives website development staff the confidence that their final product will be accessible.

For more information on WeCo's new Access Check-In website accessibility service contact Toni Grundstrom, WeCo's Director of Public Relations at 855-849-5050, ext. 5 or toni@theweco.com.

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