How to Make Games Market-Ready Through

COMPLIANCE TESTING

Key Checks for a Smooth Global Launch

The Ultimate Guide - 2026

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Introduction

Compliance testing is the process of verifying whether a product meets the required standards, regulations, and guidelines before it is released. It ensures that games comply with legal, security, and platform-specific requirements. This includes compliance with content regulations (e.g., age restrictions), monetization practices (e.g., loot boxes, in-app purchases), and data protection laws (e.g., GDPR).

The main benefits of compliance testing include:

- Access to target platforms and regions
- User trust through inclusive, polished experiences
- Avoidance of fines and data privacy violations
- Prevention of release rejections and late-stage blockers
- Reduction of development costs through early compliance detection

At QATestLab, we conduct compliance testing to ensure that games meet platform rules, regional regulations, and quality expectations. We aim to identify and eliminate potential blockers early, helping teams deliver a stable and compliant product to a global audience.

Need help making your game market-ready?
QATestLab is ready to guide you through all necessary compliance checks.

Start your compliance testing with us, and launch with confidence

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1 Compliance Testing at QATestLab

We provide a well-organized, scalable testing process that adapts to any development stage and supports consistent product quality.

1.1. What to Expect When Testing with QATestLab



Rapid onboarding without delays – We can initiate testing within 1–3 business days, seamlessly integrating into your development process at any stage.



Tailored testing strategy – Our team designs or adapts a testing approach specifically for your product to ensure efficient coverage and meaningful outcomes.



Flexible business models – You can choose from different cooperation models tailored to the scale and complexity of your project.



Fully managed QA process – We take full responsibility for the QA process, assigning a QA Project Manager for the organization or a QA Tech Lead for technical optimization.



Transparency – You'll receive time and budget estimates before testing begins, along with the opportunity to meet your testing team in advance.



Integrated communication and reporting – Clear reporting, real-time status updates, and close communication with your team for full visibility during testing.



Balanced use of manual and automated testing – We combine manual exploratory testing, where intuition and user experience insights are critical, with selective automation for repetitive and routine checks to maximize efficiency.

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1.2. Stages of Compliance Testing

1

Requirements analysis

We begin by reviewing project documentation, business goals, and end-user needs to define compliance standards and clarify product objectives.

2

Test planning

QATestLab provides a compliance test plan based on platform-specific requirements and regulatory standards, fully integrated into the overall testing strategy.

3

Test documentation development

We prepare structure, user-focused test cases, and checklists that help our clients systemize, monitor, and control all testing activities transparently.

4

Environment setup

Our QA engineers set up a real-world testing environment with all required devices, browsers, and configurations to validate both compliance and usability.

5

Test execution

Compliance testing is carried out using approved documentation, covering both typical and edge-case scenarios to assess product readiness.

6

Test cycle closure

We consolidate results, highlight any remaining compliance or usability issues, and provide recommendations for release readiness.

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2 Technical Requirements for Effective Compliance Testing

Compliance testing requires strict adherence to various technical standards to ensure the product is fully prepared for release. At QATestLab, we thoroughly address all key requirements to help you meet platform expectations and regulatory demands.
Below are the main technical principles we follow during compliance testing.

2.1. Aligning with Platform Requirements

Adhering to platform guidelines is critical for both releasing a game and maintaining its presence in the market. Each platform enforces specific rules to ensure product stability, user safety, and brand consistency. Failure to meet these standards can result in rejection, launch delays, or removal, leading to wasted time, financial losses, and declining player trust.

Examples of key platform-specific requirements

Steam:
Accurate metadata (no misleading claims), stable performance, proper Steamworks integration (achievements, cloud saves).

AppStore:
Privacy compliance (data disclosure), content moderation, interruption handling (e.g., pausing for calls).

PlayMarket:
Families Policy adherence, restricted API usage, regional compliance (e.g., Brazil's merchant verification).

Consoles:
Full controller support, stable multiplayer, no save data loss.

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2.2. Ensuring Full Scenario Coverage

Complete scenario coverage means testing every possible way a player might interact with your game, from core gameplay to edge cases.
This prevents unexpected bugs that could disrupt the player experience or violate platform rules.

Key Possible User Scenarios:

- Disconnecting controllers or network cables during saving or online operations
- Switching user profiles while the game is running
- Receiving system notifications or invitations during gameplay
- Attempting to access online features while offline
- Experiencing full storage conditions affecting saves or install
- Using accounts with parental controls or restrictions
- Force quitting or shutting down the console unexpectedly
- Interacting with the system UI while the game is suspended
- Entering rapid or irregular input sequences



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Methods to Cover all User Scenarios

Test Planning
Create a detailed test plan outlining goals (e.g., bug detection, performance) and scenarios based on game mechanics and platform rules.

Device Matrix
Test on popular devices, OS versions, and hardware configs (e.g., low-end Androids, high-res iPhones) based on your target audience's market share.

Exploratory Testing
Employ session-based or pair testing to uncover unscripted issues, especially for dynamic content like procedurally generated levels.

Automation Tools
Use tools like UIAutomator for repetitive tasks (e.g., menu navigation) to maximize coverage.

Crowd Testing:
Leverage testers from diverse regions and devices to simulate real-world conditions.

Test Case Design
Develop test cases for each scenario, covering positive (expected) and negative (error) outcomes. For example, test if a multiplayer invite works and what happens if the network drops.

End-to-end Testing
Simulate real user journeys, from launching the game to finishing key flows, to validate overall functionality and performance across the full experience.

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2.3. Accurate Bug Reporting and Documentation

Effective bug logging provides developers with clear, actionable data to resolve issues quickly and efficiently. At QATestLab, we deliver clear bug reports with additional descriptions of the problem, photos/videos of the issue (if applicable), and steps to reproduce bugs.

Importance of Detailed Bug Reporting

Accelerate Fixes

Clear steps and visuals help devs resolve issues without guesswork.

Ensure Compliance

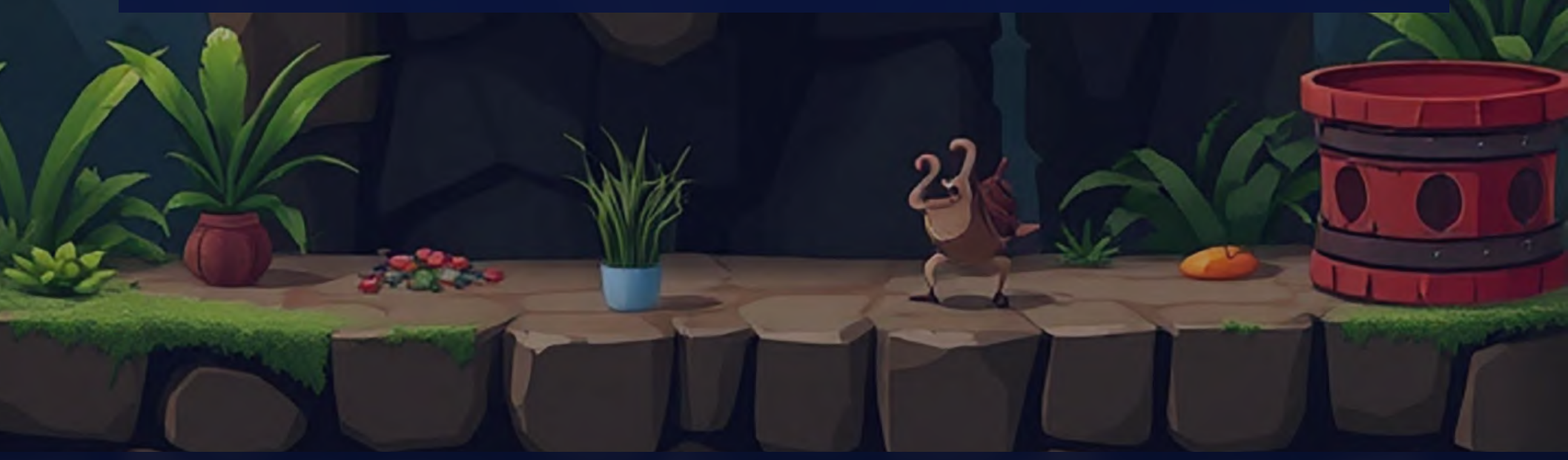
Flagging platform or regulatory violations prioritizes fixes to avoid rejections or fines.

Support Communication

Detailed reports align QA, devs, and managers, fostering collaboration.

Prevent Regression

Thorough documentation helps during retesting, ensuring fixes don’t break other features.



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Essential Components of a Bug Report:

- **Bug Title/Summary –** a concise title describing the issue to allow quick identification and prioritization.
- **Detailed Description** – a clear explanation of what happened and how it affects gameplay or compliance.
- **Steps to Reproduce** – a step-by-step list enabling developers to trigger the bug reliably.
- **Environment Details** – information on device, OS, network, and account to localize the issue accurately.
- **Severity and Priority** – defines the bug's impact and urgency to support proper prioritization.
- **Attachments** – screenshots, videos, or logs that visually confirm and clarify the issue.
- **Platform Violation Reference** – indicates which platform guideline or standard the bug violates, if applicable.
- **Expected vs. Actual Behavior** – compares the intended functionality with the actual result.
- **Additional Notes (Optional)** – extra context such as frequency or related issues to support investigation.



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2.4. Testing Across Regions and Account Types

Testing game compliance across regions and account types ensures a game adheres to local regulations, platform policies, and cultural expectations while delivering consistent functionality.

Reasons for Testing Behavior in Different Regions:



Payment Systems

Local methods like Alipay, Pix, or mobile wallets must be tested separately to ensure smooth transactions in each market.



Regional Player Behavior

Game mechanics and UX should reflect player habits (e.g., long PC sessions in Japan vs. short mobile play in India).



Legal Frameworks

Games must follow local laws on data privacy, advertising, gambling, and consumer rights (e.g., GDPR, CCPA, PIPL).



Content & Age Ratings

Content must meet regional standards and age ratings (ESRB, PEGI, CERO), with controls like age gates where required.



Cultural Sensitivities

Localization should respect cultural norms to avoid offensive or inappropriate content in specific regions.



Language Requirements

Translations must be accurate, fit UI layouts, and respond to system language settings across all supported locales.

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Steps to Setting Up Test Accounts

1. Use country-specific accounts to check access to regional content and store layouts.
2. Create different account types (e.g., child profiles) to test age limits and parental controls.
3. Adjust settings to validate platform-specific privacy, multiplayer, and restriction rules.
4. Switch languages and currencies to verify UI behavior and localization accuracy.
5. Involve local testers to assess payment flows and cultural relevance.
6. Automate checks for payments, translations, and network performance across regions.

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Examples of Regional Nuances

France

Date formats (DD/MM/YYYY) and French translations must be accurate, or UI text may break

China

Games must comply with content censorship (e.g., no violence in chats) and use local servers for data privacy

Brazil

Merchant verification documents are required for PlayMarket distribution

Japan

Players expect high-resolution graphics and stable multiplayer, requiring testing on high-end PCs

Middle East

Right-to-left text support (e.g., Arabic) and cultural sensitivity in content are critical

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3 Practical Documentation Examples

3.1. Sample Compliance Test Case

See an example of a compliance-focused test case used to validate platform-specific requirements and ensure regulatory alignment.

C1 **Verify presence of alt attribute on all images for accessibility compliance**

Test Cases

Type	Priority	Assigned To	Estimate
Regression	Medium	None	10 minutes

References	Automation Type
None	None

Preconditions

WordPress site with published posts containing images

Steps

1	Open a published post page containing images.	The page loads successfully without errors.
2	Open browser Developer Tools and locate all <img> tags on the page.	All <img> elements are found on the page.
3	Check each <img> element for the presence of the alt attribute.	Each <img> element has an alt attribute (even if it is empty: alt="").

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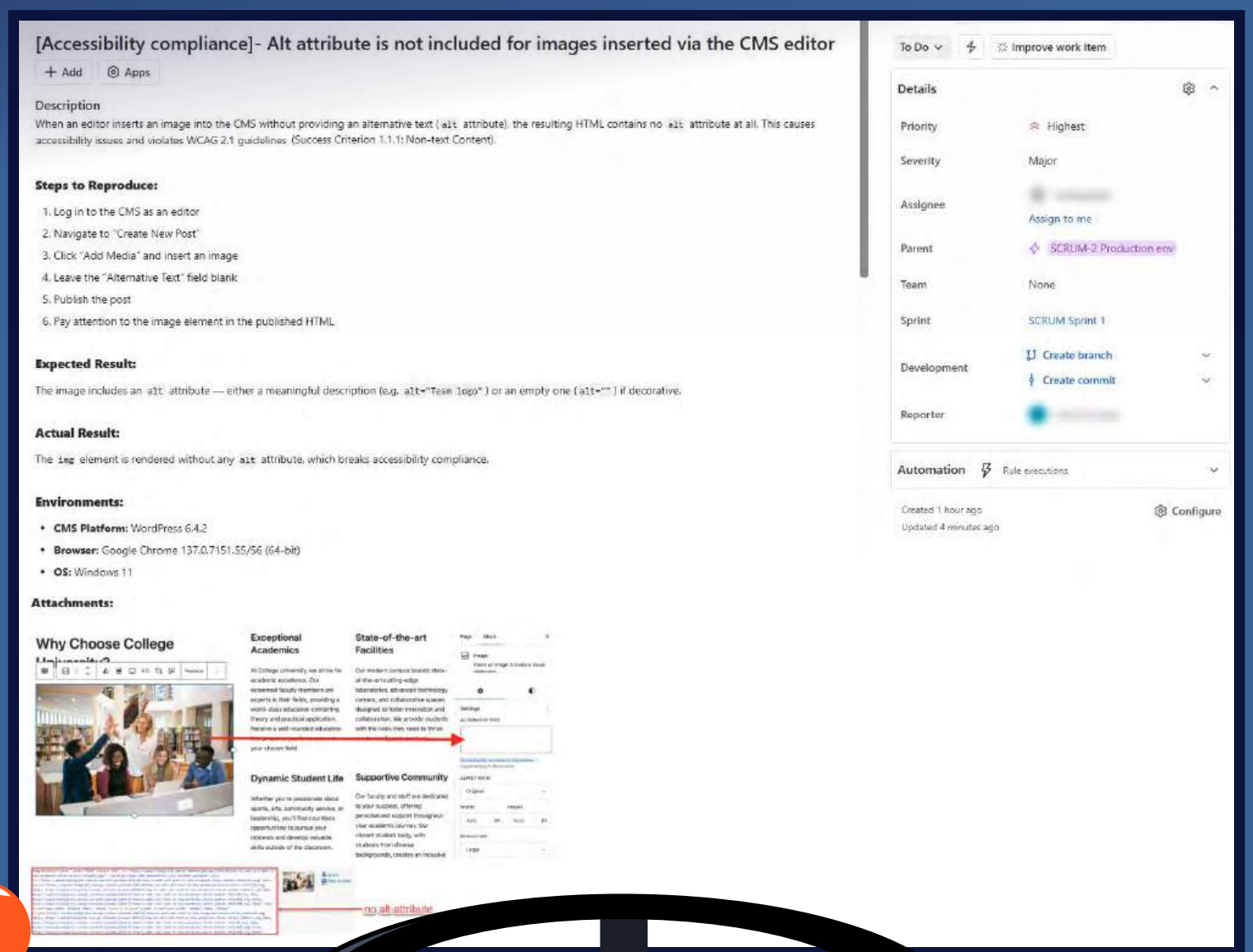
3.2. Sample Bug Report with Compliance Context

See an example of a compliance-focused test case used to validate platform-specific requirements and ensure regulatory alignment.



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4 Best Practices for Compliance Testing

A structured and proactive approach to compliance testing helps ensure your game meets platform and regulatory requirements without delays or rejections. By following proven practices, you can avoid common mistakes, reduce submission risks, and streamline the release process.

4.1. How to avoid common mistakes:

- Start by reviewing platform guidelines and aligning them with relevant game features, such as privacy settings or controller support.
- Develop a test plan that includes all key user scenarios (gameplay, multiplayer, interruptions) and accounts for platform-specific requirements.
- Automate repetitive checks such as menu navigation and payment flows, while manually testing high-risk areas like multiplayer and accessibility.
- Simulate regional conditions and test on various devices, using local accounts to validate localization and compliance.
- Report bugs clearly with detailed descriptions, reproduction steps, environment information, severity, and visual evidence.
- Test screen reader support and keyboard navigation for WCAG 2.1 AA and EN 301 549, focusing on game UIs.
- Run a final pre-submission review using tools and stakeholder input to catch any remaining compliance issues.

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4.2. Communication with Developers and Project Managers

Effective communication between QA engineers, developers, and project managers is critical to successful compliance testing in game development.



Clarifying requirements early helps avoid misinterpretations and compliance violations.



Accurate bug reporting and clear communication enable faster issue resolution under tight deadlines.



It ensures team alignment on certification needs, submission timelines, and platform updates.



Regular syncs prevent untested or unapproved features from reaching production.



Clear goals from the PM help QA and dev teams avoid misalignment and unnecessary rework.



Transparent updates help managers monitor progress without compromising quality.

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4.3. QATestLab's Internal Quality Standards

At QATestLab, we maintain strict internal quality standards to ensure structured, transparent, and reliable compliance testing.

Our framework includes:



Comprehensive test documentation

Detailed test plans, structured test cases, and compliance checklists aligned with platform and regulatory requirements.



Accurate and actionable bug reporting

Clear defect descriptions with reproduction steps, environment details, severity ratings, and evidence (screenshots, videos).



Requirement traceability

Each test case links directly to specific platform standards or project requirements.



Regular internal reviews

Peer reviews and audits ensure consistent testing quality and continuous improvement.



Ongoing team training

Our QA engineers undergo regular workshops and certifications to stay aligned with the latest compliance and testing practices.



Validated testing environments

All devices, accounts, and settings are verified before execution.



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Conclusion

To achieve lasting success in the global gaming market, your game needs comprehensive compliance testing. This process ensures your product meets all regional regulations, platform standards, and user expectations. By integrating compliance checks and structured QA practices from the early stages of development, you can minimize risks, meet certification requirements, and ensure a smooth international launch.

QATestLab specializes in QA processes that support your compliance goals. Our experienced team conducts comprehensive testing to help identify issues that may impact certification or user experience. With our expertise, you can approach your game's launch with confidence, knowing your product is thoroughly tested and ready for players worldwide.

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To help you successfully prepare your game for platform submission and global release, we've created a checklist with the key steps of compliance testing.

- [ ] Review the requirements of the target platform
- [ ] Ensure the game aligns with platform guidelines
- [ ] Identify all possible user scenarios
- [ ] Verify both standard and unexpected scenarios
- [ ] Provide clear and detailed documentation
- [ ] Research compliance requirements in target regions
- [ ] Confirm the game meets specific regional compliance

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Avoid last-minute compliance issues — contact QATestLab today and launch your game with confidence!

contact@qa-testlab.com



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