

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|          |                   | <p>audio-player play button at the top of the home page (NPR's primary audio control, present on every page). VoiceOver announces focus and hint information on the button, but no aria-live or other status message is emitted when audio playback starts or stops. A screen-reader user has no announced confirmation of state change; whether audio is currently playing or paused must be determined by re-querying the button. The audio also begins playing under the VoiceOver announcement, partially obscuring the screen reader output, which compounds the user-experience problem even though it is not itself a conformance failure of this criterion. This finding affects NPR's primary interactive surface; audio is the site's core content type and the persistent player is the main control. Other dynamic surfaces (search suggestions, newsletter feedback, load-more patterns) were not separately exercised; conformance call kept at Partially Supports rather than stepped to Does Not Support because the test scope did not cover all status-message surfaces site-wide.</p> <p>[LIVE VO CHECK, test date 2026-05-08, story page audio module] Story page audio module announces with the accessible name 'audio module' on focus. Activating it with Enter starts or stops playback but produces NO VoiceOver announcement of state change. Identical failure pattern to the persistent audio player tested on the home page. Two distinct audio surfaces on two pages both fail to emit aria-live status messages, indicating this is a systemic failure of the audio</p> |