Notification

No accessibility annotations are needed for notifications, but keep these considerations in mind if you are modifying Carbon or creating a custom component.

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What Carbon provides

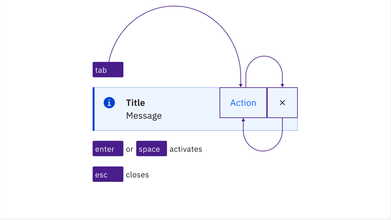
Carbon bakes keyboard operation into its components, improving the experience of blind users and others who operate via the keyboard. Carbon incorporates many other accessibility considerations, some of which are described below.

Keyboard interactions

Users can navigate through the interactive elements within the notification using the `Tab` key. Actions such as closing or activating buttons can be performed using the `Space` or `Enter` keys. Additionally, the notification can optionally be closed by pressing the `Escape` key.

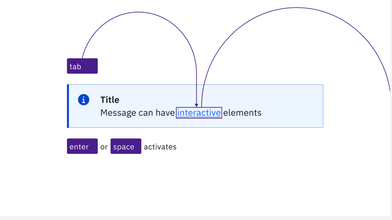
Inline and toast
Inline and toast notifications do not contain interactive elements. They use the roles of `status`, `alert`, or `log`, and they do not receive focus.

Actionable
Actionable notifications may contain interactive elements such as links and buttons. This component grabs and traps focus until an action is taken or the notification is dismissed. Users can navigate through the interactive elements using the `Tab` key, and actions like closing or activating buttons can be performed using the `Space` or `Enter` keys. Additionally, the notification can be optionally closed by pressing the `Escape` key.



Focus trapped until an action is taken or the notification is dismissed.

Callout
Callouts not automatically announced by screen readers. It can include interactive elements such as links, which users can navigate through using the `Tab` key. Additionally, actions to activate these links can be performed using the `Space` or `Enter` keys.



Navigating through interactive elements using the Tab key.

Design recommendations

Semantic styling

When using semantic styling on notifications, it's crucial to ensure accessibility by providing clear, concise text. Colours used to indicate status should always be paired with icons to avoid reliance on colour alone.

Text
It is recommended that notification messages use plain text, as semantic styling such as bold or italic and structural elements like `<li>` are not conveyed to users by screen readers. If semantic styling must be included, it should not be essential for understanding the notification

Icon and colours
Ensure that screen readers can access the icon within the Callout to convey the type or semantic meaning of the message. The icon should have descriptive alt text that provides context about the Callout's type (e.g., information or warning). This helps users understand the nature and importance of the message.

Development considerations

Use a role of `alert`, `log`, or `status` for notifications that do not require user action. For notifications that require user action, use a role of `alertdialog`.

Special care should be given to focus management for notifications with interactive elements or actions. Venturing beyond using a role of `alert` `log` `status` or `alertdialog` for event-driven notifications is not recommended at this time as presents unique challenges. If you choose to do so, there are two known possible approaches to consider and research on your own.

– Collect notifications in a persistent area in your application for users to be able to navigate to and take action on notifications.
– Render notifications in an already-existing `region` that can be accessed via a hotkey. Focus should jump to the notification region after the hotkey is invoked. Once the user has reached the end of the region, focus should return to the previously focused item in the document before the hotkey was invoked.

Neither approach is perfect, but with either one: ensure notifications are properly announced, respect user timeout preferences, and ultimately provide an easy way to be navigated to by keyboard/screenreader to take action.

Accessibility testing status

Latest version: | **Framework:** React (@carbon/react)

Component	Accessibility test	Status	Link to source code
Notification	Default state	Tested	GitHub link
	Advanced states	Tested	
	Keyboard navigation	Tested	
	Screen reader	Manually tested	

Learn more about tag and test meaning →
View all component accessibility status →

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