

2008 TCPM Annual Conference

Written Test Usage Discussion

Presented to: FAA

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Federal Aviation
Administration



Goal and Objective

- **Goal - Explore methods of measuring cognitive ability**
 - Alternatives to the traditional oral evaluation
 - Written evaluations
 - Combination evaluations - oral and written
- **Objective**
 - Capture sound ideas to develop a standardized policy for AFS-210 implementation



Today

- **Checking and Testing elements**
 - All elements for 61.58 checks, and Certification are detailed by the PTS
- **Guidance Used**
 - 14 CFR 61.58, 61.63, 61 Subpart G ATP
 - Order 8710.3E
 - Order 8900.1
 - PTS referenced in both guidance documents



The Options

- **Continue with oral evaluations as we have in past**
 - Disadvantage
 - Time pressures with 61.58 checks conducted over multiple days
 - Potential loss of continuity if different TCEs are used to conduct 61.58 check over multiple days
 - Advantages
 - No change required



Options

- **Use a written test in lieu of an oral**
 - Advantages
 - Ease of standardization
 - May relieve time pressures
 - Deficient areas easily identified
 - Not subjective
 - Disadvantage
 - Requires additional infrastructure for control measures
 - Very rigid
 - Difficult to capture the applicants correlative ability

Options

- **Combination written test and oral evaluation**
 - Advantages
 - Captures positive attributes of both methods
 - Disadvantages
 - Requires additional infrastructure of the training center



One Possibility

- **Use a Combination method**
 - Written test limited to:
 - Aircraft limitations
 - Immediate action items
 - Oral test for all other items
 - Systems
 - Preflight
 - Performance



Required Criteria for Written Test Implementation

- The written test is closed book
- The minimum passing score is 80%
- The written test must be corrected to 100%
- Procedures for unsatisfactory tests
- The written test must be administered by a Training Center Evaluator (TCE)



Required Criteria con't

- Test questions **must not** be included in the student's file
- Answer sheet **must be** placed in the students file for review
- Written test variants
- Quality control measures that ensure test integrity is maintained
- The TCE must be aware of the subject areas missed on the written test
- Trainees file must identify that a written test was used in lieu of a traditional oral
- The written test must be approved by the TCPM.



Evaluator Authority

- **The use of a written test does not:**
 - Limit the authority of evaluator to:
 - Query areas already tested
 - Expand on areas that are covered by the written test



Discussion

- **Use of written test in lieu of oral**
 - Partial –vs- Entire oral
 - For 61.58 check
 - For certification events
- **Standardization of FAA practices**
 - Accomplished by policy development
- **Criteria for use**



Thank you

