

## Control Tower Operator (CTO) Specific FAQs

<p>1. What's the difference between a CTO and an AOV Credential? Who requires a CTO?</p>	<p>Control Tower Operator (CTO) certification is driven by Public Law 14 CFR 65. It used to apply to anyone who worked as a tower controller in the National Airspace System (NAS). When AOV was formed, and the Credentialing program was launched, the AOV Credential with facility-specific rating(s) took its place. Effective February 17, 2015, Public Law 14 CFR 65.31 was amended to read, in part: "No person may act as an air traffic control tower operator at an air traffic control tower in connection with civil aircraft unless he or she holds <b>an FAA Credential with a tower rating</b> or an air traffic control tower operator certificate issued under this subpart ..."</p> <p>A CTO is still required of any non-federal control tower operator who controls air traffic in the NAS</p>
<p>2. I need a copy of my CTO certificate. I'm about to retire from the FAA as a Tower controller and I'm getting a job at an FCT.</p>	<p>Use this web site for The Airmen Certification Branch:  <a href="https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/airmen_services/">https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/airmen_services/</a></p> <p>You may need to follow the link to "Create an account."</p> <p>If you need any help with their site, you can contact them at 866-878-2498.</p>
<p>3. Is a CTO required for any of my FAA tower employees who will help staff a temporary control tower for an air show?</p>	<p>No, provided the duration of the temporary tower assignment is expected to be 120 days or less. If it will be longer than 120 days, please contact the AOV POC for your Service Area. An FAA employee who holds a valid AOV Credential with tower rating and has a current medical clearance and maintains operational currency at their Home Facility may perform the functions of a tower controller at a temporary tower facility. However, a site-specific knowledge test must be administered prior to the assumption of control duties at the temporary tower. See FAA Order 8000.90, Chapter 7, paragraph 4 for details regarding site-specific testing required for operating a temporary control facility and any additional organizational requirements as applicable.</p>
<p>4. I'm a CTO-E and I've been assigned to a non-Credentialed position; my AOV Credential is about to be withdrawn. Can I continue to be a CTO-E?</p>	<p>The requirements to be a CTO-E include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Be an FAA employee</li> <li>2) Maintain a current medical clearance</li> <li>3) Formerly held a CTO with facility rating, or currently hold or have held an AOV Credential with Tower rating</li> </ol> <p>If you are still an FAA employee with valid medical clearance, you can continue to perform the duties of a CTO-E.</p>
<p>5. I'd like to make one of my</p>	<p>Since this employee is not a DE, and has never held a CTO, then he cannot be designated as a CTO-E.</p>

<p>Support Managers a CTO-E, but he no longer holds a current rating and never had a CTO. However, he still has a valid medical clearance, and once held a Credential with Tower rating. Can I make him a CTO-E?</p>	
<p>6. Our TRACON (or CERAP) is located in proximity to FCTs that require support for CTO exams. We have employees who do not currently possess a Tower rating – however, they once held a valid CTO. Can they be made CTO-E's to support the FCTs?</p>	<p>Yes. As long as they are FAA employees and have current medical clearances.</p>
<p>7. What certificate number do I enter to make my employee a CTO-E?</p>	<p>When designating a CTO-E at your facility, you as a PM or Co-PM must enter the employee's CTO number.</p>
<p>8. I got an error message for an invalid CTO number – what should I do?</p>	<p>Make sure you are using the employee's CTO number, not their AOV Credential number. If you confirm that you have the correct CTO number, and you still get the error, contact the AOV POC for your Service Area.</p>
<p>9. I want to make one of my DEs a CTO-E, but</p>	<p>AOV is working to accommodate this situation with the online Credentialing system. Until then, please contact the AOV POC for your Service Area.</p>

they've never held a CTO (AOV Credential only), and so they don't have a CTO number – what do I do?