

Control Tower Operator (CTO) Specific FAQs

1. What's the difference between a CTO and an AOV Credential? Who requires a CTO?	<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 an FAA Credential with a tower rating 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>
2. I need a copy of my CTO certificate.	<p>Use this web site for The Airmen Certification Branch: https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/airmen_services/</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>
3. I have been relocated to manage another tower. Can I still conduct CTO examinations at my new location?	<p>No. Designees that relocate to a different control tower must reapply through Designee Management System (DMS) as an initial applicant. If you need to conduct CTO examinations for more than one facility, you must request and receive approval for an additional facility through the DMS and complete multi-facility Designated Control Tower Operator-Examiner training.</p>
4. I lost my medical clearance. Can I still conduct CTO examinations?	<p>Only Airman's Written Tests. A designee must be current on all training and proficiency requirements and be medically qualified in order to conduct CTO practical exams.</p>
5. I need to send a message to my Managing Specialist. Can I just email them?	<p>Yes, please contact your MS via the message center in DMS with any questions.</p>

6. What are the time requirements for pre-approvals and post-activities?	<p>-Pre-approval, within 24 hours prior to the event.</p> <p>-Post-activity, within 7 calendar-days following the event.</p> <p>*Please do not let the time requirements stop work. Contact your MS immediately if a CTO examination was conducted and the pre-approval was not submitted in DMS.</p>
7. What are my training requirements?	After completing your initial training, a MS will contact you to complete recurrent and safety standardization training typically once a year. It is possible that a MS will call a special meeting if there is a significant change affecting the CTO certification process or other DCTO-E functions.
8. Which forms do I need to fill out for the CTO Certificate?	You will use FAA Form 8400-3, FAA Form 8060-4 OR 8060-5. For access to all forms, where to send them and instructions on filling them out, please visit Designated Control Tower Operator Examiners (DCTO-E) FAA Homepage .
9. How do I know when to administer an Airman's Written Test (AWT)?	If an applicant has never taken the CTO Airmen Written Test or has never held a credential with a tower rating, request the CTO Airmen Written Test from the Federal Aviation Administration, email 9-AVS-AWA-AOV-DCTO-E@faa.gov .