

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Engineering Designee Recurrent Training Program Changes

### Implementation

#### Q: When Do These Changes Take Effect?

The new training program is scheduled for implementation in July 2017. The new requirements for annual completion of technical recurrent training are for calendar year 2017.

2017 Policy Change		Technical Session		General Session	
Role	Policy Changed	Previous Requirement	New Requirement	Previous Requirement	New Requirement
DERs	8100.8D, Paragraph 803g	every 2 calendar years	annually, every calendar year*	every 2 calendar years	No Change
ODA Engineering UMs	8100.8D, Paragraph 803g	every 2 calendar years	annually, every calendar year	N/A	N/A
FAA DER advisors	8100.8D, Paragraph 201b	every 4 calendar years	annually, every calendar year	every 4 calendar years	every 2 calendar years
Engineering Organization Management Team (OMT) members	8100.8D, Paragraph 201b	every 4 calendar years	annually, every calendar year	N/A	N/A

\*Does not apply to Acoustic Designees

Policy Memorandum: [AIR100-17-160-PM02](#)

### Benefits

#### Q: What Benefits Does the New Training Program Offer Designees?

You will be able to satisfy your training requirements on your schedule. No longer will you have to wait on specific content to be released. Courses will no longer expire at the end of a particular calendar year. Courses will remain in the engineering designee training library until the FAA determines that a particular course is no longer applicable or is in need of significant updates. Engineering designees will have access to their respective technical training year round with no interruptions. Again, this means that you can complete your training when you want. No more waiting on the FAA to post a complete new curriculum of courses. Additionally, as each new course is developed, it will be added to the training library. You will also have access to all engineering designee training regardless of your discipline.

#### Q: Are You Saying I can Take My Training at Any Time during the Calendar Year, Irrespective of FAA's Training Development Cycle?

Yes, the training you are required to take is identified at the time you register and pay your annual fee. This will typically include both required content specific to all designees within your particular discipline as well as you selecting a number of electives from the training library.

### Fees

#### Q: What are the new fees?

A schedule of fees for all training is available on the Engineering Designee Training website. The recurrent training fees that have changed are as follows:

- Online Technical Training annual fee: \$195
- Recurrent General Session (online or in person): \$195
- ODA Administrator Seminar (Engineering, Manufacturing and MRA): \$250

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**Q: Why are the fees changing?**

The registration fees reflect actual and projected costs to maintain the Engineering Designee Training Program. All fees paid into the Engineering Designee Training Program are managed in a dedicated training account to ensure that they are solely used for that purpose.

**Q: Do I have to pay multiple times if I have multiple authorizations?**

A: No. Once you have paid your annual fee you will be able to register and complete training for all your disciplines.

**Q: Will Fees Be Adjusted Each Year?**

The FAA will evaluate the overall financial health of the Engineering Designee Training Program each year. Fees may be increased or decreased in order to ensure the solvency of the program.

**Q: When Will I Pay My Annual Fee?**

For 2017, you must register and pay your annual training fee no later than 90 days after implementation of the new Online Technical Training Program. You must pay your fee before you will be able to access your required training. Additional details regarding the 2017 implementation date will be communicated via email. After 2017, you will be required to register and pay your annual training fee no later than March 31 of each year.

## Designee Registration System (DRS) and Blackboard Changes

**Q: All of this DRS and Blackboard stuff is a bit confusing. How do I navigate through it all?**

The FAA will be releasing an introductory course that you will be required to take before registering for your discipline specific training. This introductory course will provide detailed instructions (including screenshots) on how to navigate in DRS and Blackboard.

**Q: How is DRS changing?**

Upon registration for your discipline specific training, you will see any required courses (if there are any) and will also access an electives library where you will be able to select the specific courses you wish to complete within your discipline to satisfy your technical training requirement.

**Q: What will I see when I log in to take my training?**

In BlackBoard you will see a new 'Engineering Designee' tab as your landing page. Also, rather than seeing one list of courses, they are now separated with terms, i.e. required, electives, etc. A 'catalog' is also available to search for courses in other disciplines. We have also added a resource center under 'My Organizations - Engineering Designees.' This will include information such as Deviation Memos, Policy Memos, Course instructions, General Session presentations and more. These features will be highlighted in the introductory course.

## Registration and Courses Offered

**Q: How will I know when new training is available?**

Within DRS you will be able to elect to be notified when new training in your discipline is available. Additionally, for 2017, you will receive an email notification when the new training program has been launched.

**Q: How will I register for training?**

You will log into DRS, select the training appropriate to your discipline and then choose the elective courses you want to take. If there are any required courses for that calendar year, those will already be assigned. More detailed instructions as well as training on how to navigate the new program will be provided at implementation.

**Q: What courses are going to be offered?**

Upon implementation of the new training program, the list of courses that will be offered will be posted on the [Engineering Designee Training Program](#) website. Additional courses will be added throughout the year.

**Q: Will I have access to courses in other disciplines?**

Yes, once you have registered you will have access to the entire library of technical training courses for all disciplines for that calendar year.

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## Requirements for training currency

**Q: Why do I now have to take training annually instead of every two years?**

Making the requirement annual gives us the ability to provide you training in a timelier manner. Because we use an on-line library we can offer more topics, but make less of them required, which will likely result in less of your time required for training than the previous 2-year requirement.

**Q: What are required courses and how do they differ from Elective courses?**

Required courses are those that the FAA has determined are applicable to all designees within a certain discipline. Electives are those that designees are able to choose from a list. For example, within a particular discipline you may have one required course and then be asked to choose 1 or 2 elective courses from your discipline's electives library to fulfill your overall recurrent technical training requirement for that year. Elective courses will allow you to choose courses which are most relevant to the work you perform for the FAA. However, if your Advisor has specific elective courses that he/she wants you to take he/she can request that you take them.

**Q: How many electives do I have to take?**

The number of electives that you will be required to take may change each year, but we expect it will be 1 or 2. If a required course (one which all designees within your discipline must complete) is identified then the number of electives required will likely be less. Similarly, if the library for your specific discipline has fewer new courses to choose from, then the number of required electives may be less.

**Q: How many required courses and elective courses do I have to take in 2017?**

For 2017, there will be one required course and you will be required to choose 2 electives.

**Q: Can I change my mind about what electives I want to take after I have registered?**

Yes, but not very easily. It is important that you choose the electives you wish to take for training credit carefully. Unfortunately, you will not be able to change your choices without intervention from the FAA's Delegation and Organizational Procedures Branch, AIR-160. All courses will be available to you in the event you would like to complete additional courses.

## General Session

**Q: How is the General Session changing in 2017?**

Starting in 2017 the in-person General Session will be held in 5 locations each year. The sessions will be held in all of the same geographic locations but each location will only be offered every other year.

In 2017 General Session Seminars will be held in:	2018 General Session Seminars will be held in:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wichita (March)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fort Worth (March)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chicago (June)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Los Angeles (April)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anchorage (July)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denver (July)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boston (August)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New York (August)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seattle (September)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Atlanta (September)</li></ul>

The in-person General Session will be broken into a required morning session and an optional afternoon session. The morning session will contain material the FAA has determined to be applicable to all DERs and is required to receive credit for completion. At the end of the morning session the FAA will administer the learning assessment. After the lunch break the material provided will be more specialized so that those designees who have interest in the topics being presented may elect to return for any or all of the topics being covered.

**Q: Is the FAA really piloting an on-line General Session option over the next two years?**

Yes, in addition to the changes to the in-person Recurrent General Session, starting in July of 2017 the FAA will offer an online option (for the next 2-years) if you wish to complete your General Session training requirement online. The fee will be the same whether you choose to attend in person or complete the training online. The fee for the 2017 Recurrent General Sessions is \$195.

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**Q: What are the differences between the in-person General Session and the online session?**

The online General Session will contain the same material that will be covered in the required morning session of the in-person Seminar. The additional, optional topics of the afternoon session will be available in .pdf format for download but will not be covered as a part of the required online training.

**Q: What is the benefit of the online General Session over the in-person?**

The online General Session will allow you to complete the General Session training whenever and wherever you want since it's always available and it doesn't require travel.

**Q: Why would I want to attend the in-person rather than take the online version?**

There are several reasons that an in-person seminar might be preferred. First, it offers group interaction with fellow designees that you can't get with online training. Second, it offers the opportunity to engage the FAA and other DERs in discussion about issues being experienced. Third, the optional afternoon session provides information presented by FAA experts that may apply to a smaller segment of DERs and isn't part of the online session, such as International issues, PMA, repairs and alterations etc. Finally, we expect smaller audiences at these seminars, so if you think past seminars have just been too large, this might benefit you.