

Common Questions Concerning Retesting of Mechanics Certificated by DME Bryan Tobias

1) Is there a fee/charge involved?

There are no fees/charges for the reexamination of mechanics. These tests are conducted entirely by FAA employees, at selected FAA facilities. The mechanic will not be reimbursed for any travel expenses or refunds of any fees levied by DME Bryan Tobias.

2) Why am I being asked to retake my written exams? I only received oral and practical exams from DME Bryan Tobias.

The FAA is not questioning the written exams that you successfully completed. As a DME, Bryan Tobias was not authorized to administer any written examinations, only oral and practical examinations for Airframe and/or Powerplant mechanics, followed by issuance of a temporary airman certificate with appropriate ratings.

All mechanics who received certificates from DME Bryan Tobias are being reexamined to determine their competency to hold those certificates. The FAA's method for testing to make this determination will be a focused, computer-generated exam and an oral exam covering the ratings held by the mechanics, plus the general test topics. This is the same testing method used for the reexamination of the St. George Aviation mechanics. No practical examination will be administered by the FAA in making our evaluation of the Tobias mechanics. This specially-developed reexamination process, administered by the FAA, has historically (as with St George Aviation) proven to be an effective method of determining a mechanics' competency. The following website may assist in your understanding of the testing process: <http://www.faa.gov/mechanics/retesting/tobias/>.

You should expect to receive a knowledge test (computer-generated) of 50-60 questions depending upon your ratings issued by Bryan Tobias. Upon successful completion of this exam, you will receive an oral examination consisting of 10-15 questions, also depending upon ratings issued by Bryan Tobias.

3) Can I contact my local FAA office or a local DME and schedule the reexamination?

No. The only sanctioned method for reexamination of mechanics affected by the Bryan Tobias investigation is in accordance with FAA national guidance published in FAA Notice 8900.86, and the notification letter that you received. DME's will not be utilized in any portion of the reexamination. Not all FAA offices are equipped and approved to conduct these reexaminations. The FAA Point of Contact for the region you wish to test in, will direct you to the correct office for your reexamination.

- 4) In accordance with FAA Notice 8900.86, I have until September 1, 2010 to pass my reexamination. Can I wait until closer to that date to schedule?

The reexamination notification that you received had a mandatory date of October 2, 2009 to contact the FAA and schedule your reexamination. If you did not comply with that notification, you will receive a suspension notification. If you choose to submit to a reexamination in order to retain your certificate, you should contact a regional POC as soon as possible and make an appointment for the test.

All testing must be completed by September 1, 2010, so it is not advisable to wait until July or August to make your first test attempt. By the same token, you should allow ample time to prepare for the test as well.

- 5) Does my Inspection Authorization (IA) or other certificates, degrees, A&P School, titles, or experience exempt me from the requirement to demonstrate my competency?

No. Each person receiving a certificate from Bryan Tobias must be evaluated by the FAA, using the same criteria.

- 6) What study guides or test preparations are available to be best prepared for the testing?

FAA has provided study guides for the written examinations at: <http://www.faa.gov/mechanics/retesting/>. The FAA does not publish the oral questions.

There are some commercially-available study guides if you do a little research. There are also a number of Part 147 A&P schools and test preparation companies who offer study guides and test preparation classes specifically for this reexamination.

***Note: There have been two changes to the POC map that was attached to your notification letters.

- The Easter Region POC is now Neil Gillissen, “neil.gillissen@faa.gov”, phone (718) 553-3244.
- The Alaska Region POC, James Tupper’s phone number is (907) 457-9232