



February 28, 2023 edition

The Airman Testing Community Advisory is a monthly publication produced by the Airman Testing Standards Branch, the FAA office responsible for practical test and airman certification standards, airman testing and supporting reference material. The intent of this monthly advisory is to support change management efforts towards ensuring training and testing remain correlated for an effective certification process.

General News

Stakeholder Communications

The Airman Testing Standards Branch has established a documented process for receiving, processing, and tracking stakeholder inquiries and feedback, received via afs630comments@faa.gov. This process includes weekly and monthly status reporting of all emails received, along with statistical analyses of stakeholder groups involved, topics covered, and responses provided.

Our goal is, and will remain, to provide timely communications, and a 100% response rate to all stakeholder emails received.

Stakeholders, from across all FAA lines of business, and from across all groups of the aviation community, are encouraged to submit inquiries and feedback, on any of our products and services to afs630comments@faa.gov.

New and Revised Test Question Activation Dates

- April 24, 2023
- July 31, 2023
- October 30, 2023

FAA Airman Knowledge Tests

The FAA's testing vendor, PSI Services LLC, has been working collaboratively with the FAA and the aviation industry to scientifically assess the FAA Airman Knowledge Tests. The assessments of the Private Pilot Airplane (PAR) and Commercial Pilot Airplane (CAX) Knowledge Tests have been completed with the results of those assessments being implemented on April 24, 2023. The PAR and CAX test topics and subject matter did not change as a result of the assessment process. However, there have been changes made to existing test questions on the PAR and CAX tests to assure they are aligned with the ACSs and reference an existing FAA handbook. The assessments of the PAR and CAX did result in the following changes that applicants can expect to see starting on April 24, 2023.

1. Beginning Monday, April 24, the PAR test time will be reduced from 150 minutes to 120 minutes, and the CAX test time will be reduced from 180 minutes to 150 minutes.
2. Five (5) unscored validation questions will be added to each test, increasing the PAR test from 60 to 65 questions and the CAX test from 100 to 105 questions. Unscored questions will not count towards the test taker's score. These questions are included to allow the FAA to evaluate the statistical performance of new questions before they are included in the sets of scored questions.

It is recommended that airman applicants continue to reference the ACSs as a guide for testing resources.

Sample Test Question Changes

There are no new [sample test questions](#) for February 2023.

Learning Statement Codes

There are no changes to the [PLT Codes](#) for February 2023.

Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix

There is no new information for February 2023. The matrix is available [here](#).

Airman Knowledge Test Statistics

- The 2022 4th Quarter Statistics for School Norms vs. National Norms are located [here](#).
- The CY 2022 Airmen Knowledge Test statistics are located [here](#).

Airman Certification Standard (ACS)/Practical Test Standards (PTS) Under Revision/Development

The FAA is now publishing updates for the PTSs and ACS through a rulemaking process called Incorporation by Reference (IBR). You can learn more about this [here](#). As a result, some communications and information is restricted, once this rulemaking process begins; this is called Ex Parte. You can stay informed of rulemaking efforts and contribute to this process by following the Federal Register and submitting comments through the docket. The request for comments on the following list of publications closed on February 11th, 2023. Once the rulemaking process is complete, the FAA returns to the established process for ongoing improvements to these ACS and PTS documents.

Airman Certification Standards:

[FAA-S-ACS-2 - Commercial Powered-Lift ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-3 - Instrument Rating Powered-Lift ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-6C - Private Airplane ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-7B - Commercial Airplane ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-8C - Instrument Rating Airplane ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-11A - ATP Airplane ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-13 - Private Powered-Lift ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-14 - Instrument Rating Helicopter ACS](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-15 - Private Helicopter ACS](#)
[FAA-S-ACS-16 - Commercial Helicopter ACS](#)
[FAA-S-ACS-17 - ATP Powered-Lift ACS](#)
[FAA-S-ACS-25 - Instructor Airplane ACS](#)
[FAA-S-ACS-27 - Instructor Powered-Lift ACS](#)
[FAA-S-ACS-28 - Instrument Instructor Powered-Lift ACS](#)
[FAA-S-ACS-29 - Flight Instructor Helicopter ACS](#)

Practical Test Standards:

[FAA-S-8081-3B Rec Pilot PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-7C Flight Instructor Rotorcraft GYRO PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-8C Flight Instructor PTS for Glider](#)
[FAA-S-8081-9E Flight Instructor Instrument PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-10E Aircraft Dispatcher PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-15B Private Pilot PTS Gyroplane](#)
[FAA-S-8081-16C Commercial Gyroplane PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-17A Private LTA Balloon and Airship](#)
[FAA-S-8081-18A Commercial LTA - Balloon PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-20A ATP Helicopter PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-21A Flt Engineer PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-22A Private Pilot Glider PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-23B Commercial Glider PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-25C-Para Rigger PTS](#)
[FAA-S-8081-29A SP for Airplane-Gyro-Glider-Fl](#)
[FAA-S-8081-30A - Sport Pilot PTS for Airship-Balloon](#)
[FAA-S-8081-31A Sport Pilot for Weight Shift-Pow Para-Fl](#)
[FAA-S-8081-32A Pvt PPC and WSC PTS](#)

IBR and Ex Parte

Visit the Department of Transportation's (DOT) [Guidance on Ex Parte Communications](#) webpage for information on ex parte.

Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) ACS Workgroup (WG) Update

The purpose of the ARAC ACS WG is to support in the FAA's goal to enhance aviation safety by providing a means for the aviation industry to provide expert assistance and industry views to the FAA's Flight Standards Service (AFS) on the development, modification, and continued alignment of the major components of the airman certification system.

The expected outcomes of the ARAC ACS WG is to provide advice and recommendations to the ARAC on the continued development and maintenance of standards, training guidance, test management, and reference materials for airman certificates and ratings.

The next ARAC ACS WG meeting will be held April 18th, 2023.

Call to Action (CtA) Subgroup (SG) Update

In Section 119(d) of the 2021 Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act (ACSAA), Congress directed the FAA to conduct a “call to action safety review of pilot certification standards.” To address this Congressional mandate, the CtA SG was formed, as a subgroup of the existing Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) ACS Workgroup (WG).

The CtA SG met, for the first time, in April 2021, and then monthly, over the course of a year. These meetings resulted in a Final Recommendations Report (FRR), which was submitted, to the FAA, in June 2022. The five recommendations, outlined in the FRR, were agreed to by the FAA, and then briefed to Congress in September 2022.

Recommendation 4 is to establish a means for ongoing data evaluation based on ACS Codes, and knowledge and practical test data, for the purposes of: making improvements to standards, references, and testing; and supporting training improvement opportunities for our community partners. In response to Recommendation 4, the FAA’s Airman Testing Standards Branch is sponsoring a CtA SG Data Team, which is now in the formulation and planning stages. The CtA SG Data Team conducted its kickoff meeting on 2/8/23; and intends to meet again on 3/8/23.

Handbook Addendums

Addendum C was published for FA-H-8083-25B, Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical *Knowledge*, to address the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Safety Recommendation (SR) A-14-109. Addendum C can be found [here](#).

Handbooks Currently Under Revision

For release June 2023

- FAA-H-8083-11, Balloon Flying Handbook.
- FAA-H-8083-24, Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operating Handbook.
- FAA-H-8083-30, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – General.
- FAA-H-8083-31, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – Airframe.
- FAA-H-8083-32, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – Powerplant.

For release June 2024

- FAA-H-8083-15, Instrument Flying Handbook.
- FAA-H-8083-25, Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge.
- FAA-H-8083-13, Glider Flying Handbook.

- FAA-H-8083-5, Weight-Shift Control Aircraft Flying Handbook.

Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements

There will be no [supplement](#) revisions in 2023.

Note: *As we review questions during our AEBs, we are embedding graphics into the stem of the questions, where possible and applicable.*