U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

55 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20003

MAY 0 9 2016

Dear Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) Provider:

Since September 2011, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been working with aviation community stakeholders to improve standards, guidance, and test development practices for airman certification. This work has resulted in development of the Airman Certification Standards (ACS) framework, which integrates and aligns standards, guidance, and testing for both the knowledge and practical test components of airman certification. The ACS framework is built on today's Practical Test Standards (PTS), which establish the skill performance metrics for each flight proficiency element listed in the regulations for an airman certificate or rating. The ACS enhances the PTS by adding the specific aeronautical knowledge and risk management elements needed to support each PTS task. The ACS will not change content or lengthen the check ride. Rather, its integrated approach will provide better guidance to applicants, instructors, and evaluators on what an applicant should know, consider, and do during each phase of the airman certification process. The ACS will also enable the FAA to keep airman testing fully aligned with regulations, performance standards for knowledge and skill, and guidance materials such as handbooks.

The FAA is supporting industry efforts to prototype the use of the ACS for Private Pilot Airplane (PAR) and Instrument Rating Airplane (IRA). Feedback has been positive, and the agency intends to release the ACS for PAR and IRA in June 2016. This will result in the cancellation of the corresponding PTS. To ensure successful ACS implementation, stakeholders will need to be familiar with the ACS format, and Flight Instructors will play a leading role in this endeavor. The FAA is encouraging FIRC providers to provide ACS training to attendees, ideally through an entire ACS lesson. Participating FIRC providers should draw from the material available on the Airman Testing Standards Branch (AFS-630) web page (http://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/) to develop a comprehensive elective lesson that facilitates the understanding and use of ACS. Once the ACS elective lesson is developed, the FAA must review and approve it prior to presentation.

Thank you for your consideration to provide ACS training to your attendees. By making a choice do so, you will help make the implementation of ACS successful.

Sincerely,

James A. Viola
Manager, General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800