What's New and Upcoming in Airman Testing

(New Edition: May 28ᵗʰ, 2020)

Airman Knowledge Testing Changes

- The latest version of the FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Applicant Identification, Information Verification, and Authorization Matrix is posted here.

- To locate a commercial or military Airman Knowledge Testing Center, you may navigate to the PSI True Talent website, located here.

- Every airman applicant, who does not already have an FAA Tracking Number (FTN), should register for one, via the Integrated Airman Certification and/or Rating Application (IACRA) Website, prior to taking an airman knowledge test. For additional information, click here.
    - An IACRA enhancement is under development to allow recording of Airman Certification Standards (ACS) Tasks and Elements in a Notice of Disapproval. The enhancement is expected to be released before the end of this year.

- Effective January 13, 2020, several changes were implemented to the Airman Knowledge Test Report (AKTR) process. For additional information, click here.
    - An Applicant ID will no longer be printed on the AKTR. The FTN will be printed in place of the Applicant ID.
    - ACS Codes will be printed on the AKTR for ACS-based exams. Currently, the following exams are based on published ACS documents: ACM, ASC, ATM, ATS, CAX, CCP, ICP, IFP, IRA, MCN, PAR, PCP, UAG, and UGR.
    - An embossment (raised seal) is no longer required on the AKTR.
    - For exams taken on or after January 13, 2020, an applicant may print a duplicate AKTR via the PSI True Talent Website.

Note: *FAA Notice 8900.536, Changes to the Airman Knowledge Test Report (AKTR), was issued on January 27, 2020.*

Airman Knowledge Test Management Services

- For more information, visit https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acts/.

- For questions regarding the Airman Certificate Testing Service (ACTS), email airmanknowledgetesting@faa.gov.

- For ACTS webinars, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETLsH8BruBM&feature=youtu.be.

Airman Certification Standards (ACS) New Development/Revision Update

ACS under revision (release date TBD):

- FAA-S-ACS-10, Remote Pilot – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Certification and Recurrent Knowledge Testing) ACS

ACSs under development (release dates TBD):

- FAA-S-ACS-1, Aviation Mechanic General, Airframe, and Powerplant ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-2, Commercial Pilot Powered-Lift ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-3, Instrument Rating Powered-Lift ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-5, Airline Transport Pilot and Type Rating for Helicopter ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-9, Aviation Instructor ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-14, Instrument Rating – Helicopter ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-15, Private Pilot – Helicopter ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-16, Commercial Pilot – Helicopter ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-17, Airline Transport Pilot and Type Rating for Powered-Lift ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-18, Private Pilot Lighter-Than-Air ACS

Testing Standard (TS)

TS under development:

- FAA-S-TS-IA, Inspection Authorization (IA) TS

Reference Handbooks

With the assistance of aviation community members of the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) Airman Certification Standards (ACS) Working Group (WG), the FAA is reviewing and revising a number of its reference handbooks.

Handbook(s) scheduled for release in May 2020:

- FAA-H-8083-9B, Aviation Instructor Handbook
  - Chapters have been reorganized throughout.
  - "Student" has been replaced with "Learner" throughout.
  - References to "Airman Certification Standards" have been added, alongside "Practical Test Standards."
  - Scenario-based training, relative to assessments, has been expanded upon (see chapter 6).
  - "Cockpit" has been replaced with "Flight deck" throughout.
  - A new chapter has been added on "Teaching Practical Risk Management During Flight Instructions."
  - Appendix C has been updated to account for changes in the submission process for an Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application through IACRA.
  - Appendix C has been updated to account for Remote Pilots.

- o Examples of endorsements have been removed from Appendix C. (Refer to AC 61-65, Certification: Pilots and Flight and Ground Instructors, for a listing of suggested endorsements.
- o Appendix E, Relationships of Decision-Making Models has been removed.

Handbooks currently under revision (release dates TBD):

- FAA-H-8083-2, Risk Management Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-3, Airplane Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-5, Weight-Shift Control Aircraft Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-11, Balloon Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-15, Instrument Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-25, Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge
- FAA-H-8083-29, Powered Parachute Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-33, Powered-Lift Flying Handbook

FAA Airman Knowledge Tests

New/Revised Test Question Activation Dates for 2020:

- June 29, 2020
- September 28, 2020
- December 28, 2020

Note: *Changes to live airman knowledge tests noted in this document will be reflected in the practice exams effective June 29, 2020. Practice exams are available via the* PSI True Talent Website*.*

Note: *The current Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements (FAA-CT-8080 documents) are expected to remain in effect throughout 2020. The current editions are available here:* *https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/supplements/*

General Information Applicable to Pilot Knowledge Test Banks:

- Questions about Hazardous Inflight Weather Advisory Service (HIWAS) have been removed from all airman knowledge test banks.

Fundamentals of Instructing Knowledge Test Bank:

- The May 29, 2020, Aviation Instructor Handbook (FAA-H-8083-9B) release will not affect the June 2020 new/revised test question activation. However, this handbook release will affect the September 2020, new/revised test question activation. At that time, questions will align with the most recent edition of the Aviation Instructor Handbook (FAA-H-8083-9B).

Aircraft Dispatcher Airman Knowledge Test Bank:

- Questions about runway distance remaining as determined by runway lighting as seen from the flight deck were removed effective March 30, 2020.
- Questions about Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Out were added effective March 30, 2020.

Private Pilot – Airplane and Helicopter Airman Knowledge Test Bank:

- Questions about Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Out were added effective March 30, 2020.

Commercial Pilot – Airplane and Helicopter Airman Knowledge Test Bank:

- Questions about Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Out were added effective March 30, 2020.

Instrument – Airplane Airman Knowledge Test Bank:

- Questions about Intentional GPS Interference will be added effective June 29, 2020.

Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) – Airplane Airman Knowledge Test Bank:

- Questions about Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Out were added effective March 30, 2020.
- Questions about Very High Frequency Omnirange Station (VOR) Operational Network (MON) were added effective March 30, 2020.
- Questions about terms used by pilots and Air Traffic Control (ATC) when furnishing quality of runway braking action reports were added effective March 30, 2020.
- Questions about Intentional GPS Interference will be added effective June 29, 2020.
- Questions about FICON NOTAMs will be added effective June 29, 2020.
- Questions about Runway Condition Reports and RwyCCs will be added effective June 29, 2020.

Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) – Helicopter Airman Knowledge Test Bank:

- Questions about Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Out were added effective March 30, 2020.

Helicopter Commercial, Flight Instructor, and Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) Airman Knowledge Test Banks:

- Questions about vortex ring state, tail rotor effectiveness (LTE), and autorotation were revised effective March 20, 2020. This revision aligned questions with FAA-H-8083-21B, Helicopter Flying Handbook published October 2019.

For previous versions of the *What's New and Upcoming in Airman Testing,* visit the [Archives page](#).