

What's New and Upcoming in Airman Testing

(New Edition: May 21, 2021)

Airman Knowledge Tests

New/Revised Test Question Activation Dates for 2021/2022

- June 28, 2021
 - Changes come from comments notated on questions during the administration of knowledge tests and routine updating of questions in our ongoing effort to keep the knowledge test question current and relevant.
- September 27, 2021
- January 31, 2022
- April 25, 2022
- July 25, 2022
- October 31, 2022

Changes to Knowledge Tests

- Effective April 6, 2021, the Unmanned General – Recurrent (UGR) Airman Knowledge Test is no longer offered.
 - European Conversion
 - Based on the bilateral agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the Instrument Rating Airplane European Union (EU) Part - Flight Crew Licensing (FCL) Conversion - (IEP) and the Private Pilot Airplane European Union (EU) Part - Flight Crew Licensing (FCL) Conversion (PEP) Airman Knowledge Tests are available for administration. Exams are limited in question content.
 - The IEP test is available, effective 5/18/21 and uses FAA-CT-8080-3F, Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement for Instrument Rating.
 - The PEP test is available effective 5/18/21 and uses FAA-CT-8080-2H, Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement for Sport Pilot, Recreational Pilot, Remote Pilot and Private Pilot.
 - Questions will address:
 - Rules and regulations relevant to the certificate or rating sought;
 - Rules of the air and airspace; and
 - Appropriate air traffic services practices, communications, and emergency procedures.
 - **Note:** *These are the same topics used in the bilateral agreement between the FAA and Transport Canada's Civil Aviation (TCCA). Therefore, questions on the PEP and IEP exams will be similar in content.*
 - Sample questions may be found by reviewing the relevant topics found in the PAR and IRA sample question files located [here](#).
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Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix

The [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#) is revised, effective **May 18, 2021**.

Sample Tests

Changes to live airman knowledge tests noted in this document will be reflected in future sample tests. Improvement to sample tests is a continuous and ongoing process. Sample tests are available via the [PSI True Talent Website](#).

Sample Test Questions (PDF)

[Sample test questions](#) in PDF format have been posted to the website. These sample test questions are changed as needed throughout the cycle and are not held for the scheduled question cycle rolls to activate. The PDFs will be updated to coincide with validated comments from the public, changes resulting from ongoing question review, and minor content changes, such as “airplane” to “aircraft” or grammatical corrections.

The following sample test questions have been updated recently:

- [Airline Transport Pilot Helicopter-135 \(ATH\)](#)
- [Instrument Rating Airplane \(IRA\)](#)
- [Instrument Rating Helicopter \(IRH\)](#)

Airman Knowledge Test Reports

- Airman Certification Standards (ACS) codes are printed on the Airman Knowledge Test Report (AKTR) for ACS-based exams.
- ACS Codes are displayed **only** on AKTR for knowledge tests taken after the effective date of the corresponding ACS document.
 - Currently, the following exams are based on published ACS documents: ACM, ASC, ATM, ATS, CAX, CCP, ICP, IEP, IFP, IRA, MCN, PAR, PCP, PEP, and UAG.
- Matching the ACS Codes, printed on the AKTR, with the associated code descriptions, assists in the evaluation of subject areas shown to be deficient on the knowledge test. The ACS documents are available [here](#).

Airman Certification Standards (ACS) New Development/Revision Update

ACSs under revision/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
- FAA-S-ACS-19, Commercial Pilot Lighter-Than-Air ACS

Testing Standard (TS) New Development Update

TS under development (release date TBD):

- FAA-S-TS-25, Inspection Authorization (IA) TS

Reference Handbooks New Development/Revision Update

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.

Note: [Reference handbooks](#) are now located under one heading on faa.gov.

Handbooks currently under revision with an estimated release date of September 2021:

- 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-8083-29, Powered Parachute Flying Handbook

Handbooks currently under revision with an estimated release date of September 2022:

- FAA-H-8083-25, Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge
- FAA-H-8083-15, Instrument Flying Handbook

Handbooks currently under revision with release dates TBD:

- FAA-H-8083-11, Balloon Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-24, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operating Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-33, Powered-Lift Flying Handbook

Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement Revision Update

- There will be no revised Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements in 2021.
- The current editions of the Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements are available [here](#).

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