



*March 31, 2023 edition*

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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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.

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.

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 or against 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.

PSI has developed "Information Bulletins" for the Private Pilot Airplane (PAR) and Commercial Pilot Airplane (CAX) knowledge tests. These new resources provide applicants with more detailed information for these tests that will be effective on April 24, 2023. You can access these Information Bulletins from the main [PSI Test Registration page](#).

You can also go directly to the Information Bulletins at the following links:

- [Private Pilot Airplane Information Bulletin](#)
- [Commercial Pilot Airplane Information Bulletin](#)

## Sample Test Question Changes

We find the majority of persons interested in reviewing sample test questions are doing so by accessing the available Practice Exams on the PSI Website. Effective April 12, 2023, to avoid redundancy, we are removing the Sample Airman Knowledge Test Questions PDF files, from faa.gov, as they are identical to the PSI-provided Practice Exam questions.

We continuously review the FAA knowledge test questions, including sample questions/practice exams; and we collaborate with PSI to ensure the Practice Exams, accessible via their website, remain current.

## Learning Statement Codes

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

## Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix

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

## Airman Knowledge Test Statistics

- The 2022 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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, computer-based and oral knowledge tests, 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 planning meeting on February 8, 2023, during which time recommendations for members were requested. The group met again on March 8, 2023, with newly identified members present. Recommendation 4 was discussed with some possible research interests identified. The group agreed to meet monthly and to meet identified recommendation topics and time frames.

## Handbook Addendums

Addendum C was published for FAA-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-8083-11A, Balloon Flying Handbook

- The handbook will take on a "B" revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-11B
- This revision of the handbook is being updated to:
  - Address editorial changes
  - Include the addition of second-class medical requirements for commercial balloon pilots
  - Remove/replace obsolete publications/web links
  - Add FAA WINGS Proficiency Program information
  - Add additional language regarding ground assistance
  - Correct student pilot paper certificate information
  - Remove references to Direct User Access Terminal Service (DUATS)
  - Incorporate the Balloon Flying Handbook Addendum A, dated 2016
  - Address current industry practices

#### FAA-H-8083-24, Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operating Handbook (new development)

- This handbook has been delayed and will publish at a later date due to new material needing to be added to the handbook.

#### FAA-H-8083-25B, Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge

- The handbook will take on a "C" revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-25C
- This revision of the handbook is being updated to address:
  - Editorial changes
  - Incorporation of the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge Addendum A, dated 2/2021
  - Incorporation of the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge Addendum B, dated 1/2022
  - Incorporation of the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge Addendum C, dated 3/2023
  - NTSB Safety Recommendations A-20-12 and A-14-109
  - FAA Safety Recommendation 21.104
- This revision is considered a minor revision
- A major revision is underway and is planned for release June 2024

### **FAA-H-8083-30A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – General**

- The handbook will take on a “B” revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-30B
- This revision of the handbook is being updated to address editorial changes
- This revision is considered a minor revision
- A major revision is currently underway and is planned for release June 2024

### **FAA-H-8083-31A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – Airframe**

- The handbook will take on a “B” revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-31B
- This revision of the handbook is being combined into one handbook, instead of two volumes
- The handbook is being updated to address editorial changes
- This revision is considered a minor revision
- A major revision is planned to begin in 2023, which will take at least 3 years to complete

### **FAA-H-8083-32A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – Powerplant**

- The handbook will take on a “B” revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-32B
- This revision of the handbook is being combined into one handbook, instead of two volumes
- The handbook is being updated to address editorial changes
- This revision is considered a minor revision
- A major revision is planned to begin in 2023, which will take at least 3 years to complete

### **For release June 2024**

### **FAA-H-8083-13A, Glider Flying Handbook**

- The handbook will take on a “B” revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-13B
- This revision of the handbook is being updated to address:
  - Editorial changes
  - Change drivers
  - NTSB Safety Recommendations
  - FAA Safety Recommendations
  - Current industry practices
  - Incorporation of the Glider Flying Handbook Errata Sheet, dated 5/2015

### **FAA-H-8083-15B, Instrument Flying Handbook**

- The handbook will take on a “C” revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-15C

- This revision of the handbook is being updated to address:
  - Editorial changes
  - Change drivers
  - NTSB Safety Recommendations
  - FAA Safety Recommendations
  - Current industry practices
  - Incorporation of the Instrument Flying Handbook Errata Sheet, dated 10/2014
  - Incorporation of the Instrument Flying Handbook Addendum A, dated 4/2015
  - Incorporation of the Instrument Flying Handbook Addendum B, dated 11/2019

#### **FAA-H-8083-25C, Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (Major revision)**

- The handbook will take on a “D” revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-25D
- This revision of the handbook is being updated to address:
  - Editorial changes
  - Change drivers
  - NTSB Safety Recommendations
  - FAA Safety Recommendations
  - Current industry practices

#### **FAA-H-8083-30B, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – General (Major revision)**

- The handbook will take on a “C” revision letter
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-30C
  - The handbook chapters are being aligned to match the subject area sequencing in FAA-S-ACS-1, Aviation Mechanic General, Airframe, and Powerplant Airman Certification Standards. For example, the first subject in FAA-S-ACS-1 is “Fundamentals of Electricity and Electronics,” so the current chapter 12 will move to chapter 1.
  - Chapters 9 and 13 are being combined
  - Chapters 10 and 11 are being combined
  - The Human Factors section is being rewritten
  - The handbook will contain 12 chapters when the revision is complete
  - Items listed in the ACS, that are missing from the currently published version of the handbook, will be included

### **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.*