



December 2025 Edition

The Airman Testing Community Advisory (ATCA) is produced by the General Aviation and Commercial Division, Training and Certification Group, Testing Standards Section (TSS), which is the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) office responsible for practical test and airman certification standards, certification testing programs, and supporting reference materials. This advisory intends to provide an additional method of change management communication to our stakeholders and support efforts to ensure training and testing remain correlated for an effective certification process.

Stakeholder Communications

You are encouraged to submit questions and comments regarding our products and services. Please note that we have a new email address for feedback: TestingStandardsComments@faa.gov. This new email address replaced the previous afs630comments@faa.gov email address.

Please continue to email comments related to Practical Test Standards (PTS) and Airman Certification Standards (ACS) to acsptsinquiries@faa.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The latest version of the Testing Standards Section Frequently Asked Questions document is available at this link: [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Standards

ACS References

The FAA plans to remove the FAA-P-8740-66 (Flying Light Twins Safely, FAA-P-8740-66) pamphlet from the task reference section of the Private Pilot for Airplane Category ACS, Commercial Pilot for Airplane Category ACS, and the Flight Instructor for Airplane Category ACS during the next ACS revision.

The FAA determined that the information regarding factors affecting V_{MC} in FAA-P-8740-66 may not be consistent with the multiengine airplane information found in the [Airplane Flying Handbook \(FAA-H-8083-3C\)](#), revised in 2021. The FAA also removed Flying Light Twins Safely, FAA-P-8740-66 (2008), from the [FAA Team website](#).

Airmen should reference the multiengine airplane operations information in the [Airplane Flying Handbook \(FAA-H-8083-3C\)](#), in preparation for multiengine airplane training and practical tests.

Helicopter - Simplified Flight Control ACS

[FAA-S-ACS-26, Sport Pilot ACS for Helicopter-Simplified Flight Controls](#), and [FAA-S-ACS-31, Sport Flight Instructor ACS for Helicopter-Simplified Flight Controls](#), were posted to our website on December 14, 2025.

Sport Pilot PTSs

FAA-S-8081-29B, Sport Pilot and Flight Instructors with a Sport Pilot Rating PTS for Airplane Category, Rotorcraft Category Gyroplane, and Glider Category; FAA-S-8081-30B, Sport Pilot and Flight Instructors with a Sport Pilot Rating PTS for Lighter-Than-Air Category; and FAA-S-8081-31B, Sport Pilot and Flight Instructors with a Sport Pilot Rating PTS for Powered Parachute Category and Weight-Shift-Control Aircraft Category are in the process of being revised to harmonize with Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certificate (MOSAIC) and will be posted to our website as soon as possible after **October 22, 2025**. It is the expectation that Evaluators, Instructors, and Applicants comply with changes to Title 14 CFR, chapter 1, subchapter D, part 61, effective October 22, 2025, regardless of the Sport Pilot and Flight Instructors with a Sport Pilot Rating PTS version being used.

Evaluators, Instructors, and applicants may still use FAA-S-8081-29B, FAA-S-8081-30B and FAA-S-8081-31B until FAA-S-8081-29C, FAA-S-8081-30C and FAA-S-8081-31C become effective provided that the standards and information affected by the rule change within the associated “B” version of the PTS is substituted with the correct (most current) standards and information provided in the new rule as of October 22, 2025.

Reference Materials

The TSS continually evaluates our internal processes for developing, revising, and maintaining reference materials to ensure programmatic efficiencies and increased agility in keeping pace with advancements in aviation safety and technologies.

Handbooks

The following handbooks have addendums developed to harmonize with the MOSAIC Rule. These handbook addendums were posted to our website on November 14, 2025.

- FAA-H-8083-3C, Airplane Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-25C, Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge
- FAA-H-8083-5, Weight-Shift Control Aircraft Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-29, Powered-Parachute Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-1, Weight and Balance Handbook

Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT)

The TSS continues to revise the practical test banks to improve consistency and better reflect real-world maintenance practices. In conjunction with improving the practical projects/questions, the Minimum Equipment Tool List (MTEL) is being updated.

Practical Test Banks Updates

- Practical Test Banks:
 - Aviation Mechanic General (AMG)—Changes have been submitted and will be active in February 2026.
 - Aviation Mechanic Airframe (AMA)—In the reviewing process.
 - Aviation Mechanic Powerplant (AMP)—Scheduled for review.

MTEL Updates

- Revised MTEL:
 - Notifications of MTEL changes will be made through the Designee Management System (DMS) when practical projects require DMEs to acquire tools, equipment, or materials.

MTEL Tools, Equipment, or Materials

- Liquid Penetrant Kit to conduct non-destructive testing.

Please email comments related to the MTG and MTEL to 9-AVS-Mechanic-Test-Generator@faa.gov.

Airman Knowledge Testing

Airman Knowledge Test Questions (AKTQ) are continuously monitored for accuracy and performance and rigorously reviewed during regularly scheduled exam board meetings to ensure spelling and grammatical correctness, clarity, consistency in terminology, structure, and formatting, and alignment of content with FAA regulations, testing and certification standards, and reference materials and figures. Although the FAA does not provide sample questions or share active question content with stakeholders, information on new content, content no longer tested, and terminology changes is posted in the ATCA.

Graphics Conversion Project Update

In collaboration with PSI Services, LLC, the FAA is enhancing its Airman Knowledge Testing System by embedding figures directly into test questions, moving away from relying solely on separate Testing Supplements. This update aims to offer applicants a more comprehensive and modern testing experience.

Currently, the Commercial Pilot, Private Pilot, and Unmanned Aircraft Exams feature questions with embedded figures. Starting in late January 2025, the Sport Pilot exams will also include questions with embedded figures. Applicants will continue to receive a test supplement during their exam until further notice.

Applicants preparing for FAA exams are encouraged to regularly visit the PSI True Talent site to access the sample test questions and familiarize themselves with the new format.

Candidate Information Bulletins

Candidate Information Bulletins (CIB) contain valuable information for test candidates, including examination registration and scheduling procedures, reporting to the examination site, test authorization and reauthorization requirements, and test content specifications.

Below are links to exams with available CIBs. This list will be updated as PSI Services, LLC, and the FAA finalize evaluations of additional exams.

- [Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine \(ATM\)/Airline Transport Pilot Single Engine Airplane \(ATS\)](#)
- [Commercial Pilot Airplane \(CAX\)](#)
- [Commercial Pilot Helicopter \(CRH\)](#)
- [Instrument Rating Airplane \(IRA\)](#)
- [Instrument Rating Helicopter \(IRH\)](#)
- [Private Pilot Airplane \(PAR\)](#)
- [Private Pilot Helicopter](#)
- [Unmanned Aircraft General \(UAG\)](#)

Sport Pilot Knowledge Tests

The sport pilot knowledge tests have been reviewed and revised where necessary. Two new tests have been created for Helicopter-Simplified Flight Controls to harmonize with MOSAIC and are active as of **October 22, 2025**. Refer to the FAA Airman Knowledge Matrix for test authorization specifications.

Learning Statement Codes

The current version of the Learning Statement Reference Guide for Airman Knowledge Testing is available at this link: [Learning Statement Codes](#).

ACS Codes

Of the **91** FAA airman knowledge tests offered, **33** now have ACS codes displayed on the corresponding Airman Knowledge Test Reports (AKTR). The light blue shading of the test code indicates these tests in the [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#).

Matrix

The latest version of the Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix is available at this link: [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#).

Statistics

Airman Knowledge Tests Statistics

The CY 2024, Airman Knowledge Test Statistics, and Test Volume Chart are available at this link: [Airman Knowledge Test Statistics](#).

Frequently Missed Knowledge Test ACS Codes

The Frequently Missed Knowledge Test ACS Codes Report is located on the [Airman Knowledge Test Statistics Webpage](#). This report is based on recommendations provided by the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) Airman Certification System (ACS) Call to Action (CtA) Subgroup (SG) and Data Team, and:

- is produced and posted to the [Airman Testing Webpage](#) quarterly;
- is based on data contained in the Safety Performance and Analysis System (SPAS), for the specified timeframe;
- includes data for ACS codes administered at least 100 times; and
- displays ACS Codes missed more than 70% of the time on specific knowledge tests.