



October 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 feedback email address: TestingStandardsComments@faa.gov. This new email replaced the afs630comments@faa.gov email.

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.

Standards

Incorporation by Reference (IBR)

The Testing Standards Section publishes updates for the PTS and ACS through a rulemaking process called IBR.

The FAA introduced a new rule, *Airman Certification Standards and Practical Test Standards for Airmen; Incorporation by Reference*, to address airman testing standards. This rule codified 15 ACS and 18 PTS in Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations parts 61, 63, and 65, and aligns applicable knowledge and practical tests. The new rule was published in the Federal Register on April 1, 2024, and went into effect on **May 31, 2024**.

The ACS and PTS listed in the FAA’s new rule have the full force and effect of the regulations. The ACS and PTS rule identifies a specific testing standard associated with each certificate, rating, or proficiency check, eliminating ambiguity about which standard must be used. The FAA also published [FAA-G-ACS-2, *Airman Certification Standards Companion Guide for Pilots*](#), and associated documents, which are available online.

The final rule and associated documents can be viewed at this link: [Federal Register: Airman Certification Standards and Practical Test Standards for Airmen; Incorporation by Reference](#).

ACS Companion Guides

The [ACS Companion Guide for Pilots](#) was updated with Change 2 on December 26, 2024, to remove an errant code (CA.IV.B.S5) from the “Commercial Pilot for Airplane Category ACS Archived Codes” subsection of Section 8.

ACS Tips for Evaluators

In early **October 2024**, the ‘ACS Tips for Evaluators’ link was removed from the [Airman Certification Standards webpage](#) as the checklist contained outdated and duplicative information.

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 ACSs

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, will be posted to our website on **October 22, 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 Testing Standards Section 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 upcoming MOSAIC Rule. These handbook addendums will be posted to our website on **October 22, 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) Oral and Practical Testing

Practical Test Bank Updates

The Testing Standards Section is revising the practical test banks to improve consistency and better reflect real-world maintenance practices.

- Broader Question Coverage: We are working to ensure applicants do not receive more than one question from the same subject area.
- Fewer “Look Up and Explain” Questions: The focus is shifting toward practical, application-based questions for a more consistent testing experience between applicants.
- Revised Practical Question Design:
 - Practical questions will directly relate to the assigned project.
 - Most practical questions are now based on content from Aircraft Maintenance Manuals (AMM) and Advisory Circulars (AC) used in the practical project, as reflected in the references for the question.
 - Practical questions based on content from Handbooks will be limited to subject areas where content is not typically found in AMMs or ACs, for example, math and physics.
 - The Designated Mechanic Examiners (DME) will have a greater opportunity to exercise discretion when determining correct answers, using the project details, manufacturer's information, and reference materials as guidance.

- The Airman Certification Standards Exam Board (AEB) has completed the review of the Aviation Maintenance General (AMG) Practical Projects and related practical questions. DMEs will see updates soon.
- There are currently no changes to the Minimum Tool and Equipment List (MTEL).
- During pretest planning, DMEs are encouraged to review new and revised questions as they appear to ensure a smooth transition during applicant testing.

The Testing Standards Section will soon solicit DMEs to submit suggestions for new practical projects and related practical questions. The AEB will review submissions for potential inclusion in the practical test bank to further strengthen the correlation between testing and current industry practices.

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.

Applicants preparing for FAA exams are encouraged to regularly visit the provided PSI link to access the sample test questions and familiarize themselves with the new format. This will help ensure they are well-prepared for the updated testing process.

Sample Tests

The FAA's testing vendor, PSI Services LLC, has started implementing enhanced sample test content with user experience. This provides applicants with more tools and additional sample questions for a more comprehensive sampling of what is expected on airman knowledge tests.

Sample tests for exams are available on the [PSI True Talent site](#)

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 Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix version 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.