What's New and Upcoming in Airman Testing

(New Edition: October 31, 2019)

Airman Certification Standards (ACS) New Development Update
Airman Certification Standards (ACS) Revision/Change Update
Airman Knowledge Test Management Services
Reference Handbooks
FAA Airman Knowledge Tests
  • General Information Applicable to Pilot Knowledge Test Banks
Airman Certification Standards (ACS) New Development Update

ACSs under development:

- 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, 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

Airman Certification Standards (ACS) Revision/Change Update


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.

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) released in October 2019:


Handbook(s) and Addendums scheduled for release in November 2019:

- FAA-H-8083-9, Aviation Instructor Handbook
  - Addendum issued based on FAA Safety Recommendation
FAA Airman Knowledge Tests

General Information Applicable to Pilot Knowledge Test Banks

Changes Effective June 2019 Applicable to the Aircraft Dispatcher Knowledge Tests

- Removed questions which are no longer supported by the knowledge testing supplement version FAA-CT-8080-7D.
- Removed questions regarding the following:
  - Calculating maximum allowable weight that may be carried on a pallet based on floor loading limitations.
  - Calculating minimum floor loading limits required to carry a pallet based on dimensions and weight.
  - Increased approach minimums for PICs with less than 100 hours PIC flight time.
  - Pilot reporting requirements to ATC for equipment failures in-flight.
  - Pilot proficiency check requirements.
  - CAT II approach limitations removal for pilots.
  - Pilot medical certificate requirements for taking practical tests.
  - 14 CFR part 91 requirement for turbine-powered and large airplanes to climb as rapidly as possible to 1,500 feet AGL.
  - HIWAS.
  - Aircraft instrument errors caused by a blocked static port or pitot tube.
  - Erroneous barometric altimeter indications due to incorrect pressure settings.
  - Calculating Weight and balance to determine percent MAC or weight shift CG change, and associated stab trim settings.
  - Collision avoidance responsibility in MOAs.
  - Determining in-flight airframe ice accretion by flight deck observation.
  - Pilot taxi procedures based on ATC instructions, and airport signs or markings.
  - Minimum glycol content required for type 2 deice/anti-icing fluid.
  - VASI indications a seen by pilots.
  - Hyperventilation.
  - Navigation indications as viewed by pilots during flight.
  - Visual Descent Point (VDP).
  - In-flight engine power settings (EPR, N1).
  - Off-route obstacle clearance altitude.
  - The determination of brake energy limits.
  - ETOPS.

For previous versions of the What’s New and Upcoming in Airman Testing, visit the Archives page.