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 (FAQ)

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 FAASTeam 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 either on **October 22, 2025**, or as soon as possible thereafter.

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

Airman Knowledge Testing

Airman Knowledge Test Questions (AKTQ) are continuously monitored for accuracy and performance and are 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 are posted in the ATCA.

Flight Instructor Exams

In December 2024, the FAA implemented rule changes for Title 14 CFR part 61, section 61.197 Recent Experience Requirements for Flight Instructor Certification and Title 14 CFR part 61, section 61.199 Reinstatement of Flight Instructor Privileges.

As a result, the affected Flight Instructor Airman Knowledge Test Questions (AKTQ) were revised to align with the content of the rule changes. These updates took effect on June 18, 2025.

Unmanned Aircraft General - Small (UAG) Knowledge Exam

The FAA's testing vendor, PSI Services LLC, has been working collaboratively with the FAA and the aviation industry to assess the FAA Airman Knowledge Tests scientifically. The Unmanned Aircraft General (UAG) exam assessment has been completed, and the results of those assessments will be implemented on **September 29, 2025.**

The assessment of the UAG Knowledge Test will make the current testing blueprint found in the Remote Pilot-Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Airman Certification Standards (FAA-S-ACS-10B) (UAS ACS) obsolete. The updated test blue print can be found at this link: UAG_Information_Bulletin.pdf. Please refer to this Applicant Information Bulletin until the UAS ACS can be updated with the new information.

- The UAG test topics and subject matter <u>did</u> **not change** as a result of the assessment process. However, the UAG test questions have been reviewed to ensure they are aligned with the ACSs and reference an existing FAA handbook.
- There is **no reduction** in test time allotment.
- It is recommended that airman applicants continue to reference the ACSs as a guide for testing resources.

  Note: Validation questions may be included on any exam, but do not count for or against the test taker's score. These unscored questions allow the FAA to accumulate data to evaluate the statistical performance of new questions before they are included in the sets of scored questions.

Sample Tests

The FAA's testing vendor, PSI Services LLC, has started implementing enhanced sample test content with an advanced 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.

Sport Pilot Knowledge Exams

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 will become active on **October 22, 2025**.

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 **89** FAA airman knowledge tests offered, **31** 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.

Two new knowledge tests for sport helicopter-simplified flight controls will be effective **October 22, 2025**.

The Knowledge Testing Matrix will be revised to reflect these changes.

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 website 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.
- displays ACS Codes missed more than 70% of the time on specific knowledge tests.