



August 2024 Edition

The Airman Testing Community Advisory (ATCA) is produced by the Training and Certification Group, Testing Standards Section (formerly known as the Airman Standards Testing Branch), 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

We have an established process for timely responses to stakeholder inquiries and feedback. You are encouraged to submit questions and comments regarding our products and services to afs630comments@faa.gov.

Please 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 FAQs document is available at this link: [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

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](#).

Reference Materials

The Testing Standards Section recently completed revisions to our internal processes for developing, revising, and maintaining reference materials. These process improvements will result in programmatic efficiencies and increased agility so we may better keep pace with advancements in aviation safety and technologies.

Handbooks

We value and continue to rely upon our established partnerships with the aviation community when collaborating to develop, review, and revise handbook content. As our processes evolve, we will ensure effective communications with our FAA and community partners, including a jointly designed schedule for handbook development and revision.

Inspection Authorization Information Guide

[FAA-G-8082-19, Inspection Authorization Information Guide \(with Change 1\)](#), dated July 19, 2024, is now available on [faa.gov](#). Revisions and updates are indicated by “change bars” in the margin of the document; and following is a summary of those changes:

- Removed references to the Government Printing Office (GPO).
- Replaced links and references to the Regulatory Guidance Library (RGL) with Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) information.
- Updated broken hyperlinks.
- Updated information located in the section titled “Approving Major Repairs and Major Alterations / What to Look for During an Inspection”, on pages 6 and 7.
- Updated information located in the “Condition” section, on page 14.
- Updated information located in the “Malfunction or Defect Reports” section, on pages 17 and 18.
- Updated title of AC 43-210A, on page A-17.
- Added “FAA Orders and Job Aids” section, on pages A-17 and A-18.

Airman Knowledge Testing

Airman Knowledge Test Questions (AKTQs) 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 **will be posted** in the ATCA.

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). These tests are indicated by light blue shading of the test code in the [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#).

Matrix

The [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#) is updated, **effective September 1, 2024**, to include changes to acceptable forms of authorization for the Fundamentals of Instructing and Sport Pilot Flight Instructor tests. Page 10 of the Matrix now reads as follows:

Acceptable forms of authorization for Fundamentals of Instructing (FOI) (effective September 1, 2024):

- Certificate of graduation issued by an FAA certificated pilot school. ([14 CFR § 61.71\(a\)](#))
- Logbook endorsement from an authorized ground or flight instructor, certifying that the applicant completed an applicable ground training or home study course, and is prepared for the knowledge test. ([14 CFR § 61.183\(d\)](#), [14 CFR § 61.185\(a\)\(1\)](#), [14 CFR § 61.405\(a\)\(1\)](#)). (Refer to [AC 61-65](#), as amended, for an example of this endorsement.)

An airman applicant may present one or more of the following acceptable forms of authorization for SPORT PILOT Flight Instructor tests listed above (SIA through SIY):

- Certificate of graduation issued by an FAA certificated pilot school. ([14 CFR § 61.71\(a\)](#))
- Logbook endorsement from an authorized ground or flight instructor certifying that the applicant completed an applicable ground training or home study course and is prepared for the knowledge test. ([14 CFR § 61.405](#))

E6B Aviation Calculator

Starting **September 23, 2024**, the PSI test delivery platform will feature an enhanced aviation-oriented calculator, including an E6-B flight computer, which will be available for use at any time during any knowledge test administration event.

Statistics

Norms Report

The 2023 1st Quarter School Norms vs. National Norms Report is available at this link: [2023 NORMs Statistics](#). This is the final posting of this report.

Airman Knowledge Tests Statistics

The CY 2023 Airman Knowledge Test statistics are available at this link: [Airmen Knowledge Test Statistics](#).

Frequently Missed Knowledge Test ACS Codes

The first iteration of the Frequently Missed Knowledge Test ACS Codes Report is now available at this link: [2 Qtr CY 2024 Frequently Missed Knowledge Test Airman Certification Standards \(ACS\) Codes](#).

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:

- will be produced and posted to the Airman Testing Website on a quarterly basis.
- 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.