



*January 2024 Edition*

---

The Airman Testing Community Advisory (ATCA) is produced by the Airman Testing Standards Branch, the 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](mailto:afs630comments@faa.gov).

### **Mechanic Standards and Testing Update**

#### **Knowledge Testing**

Effective January 2, 2024:

The FAA's testing vendor, PSI Services, LLC, implemented Multi-Factor Authentication technology as a requirement for airman applicants to access their PSI Knowledge Testing accounts. All airman applicants who take an FAA airman knowledge test must comply with this Federal Security requirement.

Effective August 1, 2023:

14 CFR part 65 requires [FAA-S-ACS-1, Aviation Mechanic General, Airframe, and Powerplant Airman Standards](#), to be used as the standard for testing mechanic applicants. [FAA-S-8081-26B, Aviation Mechanic General, Airframe, and Powerplant Practical Test Standards](#), are no longer used as the standard for testing mechanic applicants.

ACS Codes are now the basis for providing feedback on Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Airman Knowledge Test Reports (AKTR) for missed knowledge test questions. However, Aviation Mechanic Learning Statement Codes (LSC) may still be utilized as feedback for questions missed on AMT General, Airframe, and Powerplant knowledge tests administered **before** August 1, 2023.

An updated [Learning Statement Reference Guide](#) is available on the [Airman Testing Website](#).

---

## Oral and Practical (O&P) Testing

Amended regulations to parts 65 and 147 were enacted on August 1, 2023. The [Airman Testing Website](#) is updated with information and resources for Designated Mechanic Examiners (DME), mechanic applicants, and managing specialists, including links for DME training, a sample test, and frequently asked questions (FAQ).

As a reminder, effective August 1, 2023:

- Tests previously downloaded from the Designee Registration System (DRS) are no longer valid.
- DMEs are no longer able to download tests from the DRS.
- DMEs must use the new Mechanic Test Generator (MTG) application to access test resources and should continue to post-test results for mechanic applicants.

You are encouraged to submit questions and comments regarding the new MTG to [9-AVS-Mechanic-Test-Generator@faa.gov](mailto:9-AVS-Mechanic-Test-Generator@faa.gov).

## Test Question Changes

No changes.

## Learning Statement Codes

An updated version of the Learning Statement Reference Guide for Airman Knowledge Testing, effective 8/1/23, is available at this link: [Learning Statement Codes](#).

## Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix

The current version of the Matrix is available at this link: [Knowledge Testing Authorization Requirements Matrix \(faa.gov\)](#).

## Airman Knowledge Test Statistics

- The 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Statistics for School Norms vs. National Norms are available at this link: [1 Qtr 8080-08 School Norms vs National Passing Norms.xlsx \(faa.gov\)](#).
- The 2022 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Statistics for School Norms vs. National Norms are available at this link: [4-qtr-8080-08-school-norms-vs-national-passing](#).
- The CY 2023 Airman Knowledge Test statistics are available at this link: [Airmen Knowledge Test Statistics](#).

## Incorporation by Reference (IBR) and Ex Parte

We publish updates for the PTS and ACS through a rulemaking process called Incorporation by Reference (IBR). You can learn more about this by visiting the [Office of the Federal Regulations \(OFR\), Incorporation by Reference in the CFR](#). As a result, some communications and information are restricted once this rulemaking process begins, known as Ex parte.

For additional information, visit the [Department of Transportation's \(DOT\) Guidance on Ex Parte Communications webpage](#).

## **Handbooks Update**

AFS-630 is revisiting our internal processes for the development and maintenance of handbooks. The primary driver for this assessment is the need to seek programmatic efficiencies and gain agility in keeping pace with advancements in aviation safety and technologies. We value and will continue to rely upon our established partnerships with the aviation community regarding handbook content. As our processes evolve, we will ensure we communicate effectively with our FAA and community partners.

With that said, we hope to publish a handbook schedule soon.

## **Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements**

We are currently reviewing supplements to identify any needed changes for 2024.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

The Airman Testing Standards FAQs have a new look and have been significantly updated. The January 18, 2024, version is available at this link: [Frequently Asked Questions](#).