



July 2023 Edition

The Airman Testing Community Advisory is a publication produced by the Airman Testing Standards Branch, the FAA office responsible for practical test standards, airman certification standards, airman testing, and supporting reference materials. The intent of this advisory is to provide an additional method of change management communication to our stakeholders, and supports efforts to ensure training and testing remain correlated for an effective certification process.

Stakeholder Communications

We have an established process for providing timely responses to stakeholder inquiries and feedback. Stakeholders, from across FAA lines of business and the aviation community, are encouraged to submit questions and comments, regarding any of our products and services, to afs630comments@faa.gov.

Pilot Airman Knowledge Testing Update

Applicant Information Bulletins

PSI developed [Applicant Information Bulletins](#) for the following knowledge tests:

- Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine Airplane (ATM)/Airline Transport Pilot Single-Engine Airplane (ATS)
- Commercial Pilot Airplane (CAX)
- Instrument Rating Airplane (IRA)
- Private Pilot Airplane (PAR)

These new resources provide applicants with detailed information regarding these tests and are available on [PSI's Website](#).

Assessments

The FAA's Airman Certificate Testing Service (ACTS) contract requires the vendor, PSI Services, LLC, to assess FAA Airman Knowledge Tests for adherence to current standards for educational and psychological testing. We continue to work collaboratively with PSI, and our aviation community partners, on these assessments. Some of the changes below were outcomes from those assessments.

Effective April 24, 2023:

- The CAX test time decreased from 180 minutes to 150 minutes.
- The PAR test time decreased from 150 minutes to 120 minutes.

Effective July 31, 2023:

- Five unscored validation questions will be added to the ATM, ATS, and IRA knowledge tests.
 - **Note:** Validation questions do not count towards or against the test taker's score. These unscored questions allow us to evaluate the statistical performance of new questions before they are included in the sets of scored questions.
- The ATM test time decreases from 240 minutes to 210 minutes.
- The ATS test time decreases from 180 minutes to 150 minutes.
- The IRA test time decreases from 150 minutes to 120 minutes.

Mechanic Standards and Testing Update

In preparation for the August 1, 2023, effective date of the new parts 147 and 65 rules, we updated the [Airman Testing Website](#) with information and resources for Designated Mechanic Examiners (DMEs), mechanic applicants, and managing specialists. This information and resources include a sample test, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and links to DME training details. The website will continue to be updated with relevant information. As August 1, 2023, approaches, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with these resources.

Effective August 1, 2023:

- The Aviation Mechanic General, Airframe, and Powerplant Airman Certification Standards (ACS) become the testing standard for Mechanics.
- All Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Knowledge Tests administered will display ACS Codes on the resulting Airman Knowledge Test Reports (AKTR).
- Tests previously downloaded from the Designee Registration System (DRS) will no longer be valid.
- DMEs will no longer be 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.

Sample Test Question Changes

We continuously review the FAA knowledge test questions, including sample questions/practice exams; and we collaborate with PSI to ensure the Practice Exams, accessible via their website, remain current.

Learning Statement Codes

There are no changes to the [Learning Statement Codes](#).

Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix

The current version of the Matrix is available [here](#).

An updated version of the Matrix will be effective July 31, 2023.

Airman Knowledge Test Statistics

- The 2022 4th Quarter Statistics for School Norms vs. National Norms are located [here](#).
- The CY 2022 Airman Knowledge Test statistics are located [here](#).

Incorporation by Reference (IBR) and Ex Parte

We are now publishing updates for the PTS and ACS through a rulemaking process called Incorporation by Reference (IBR). You can learn more about this [here](#). As a result, some communications and information are restricted, once this rulemaking process begins; this is called Ex Parte.

Visit the Department of Transportation's (DOT) [Guidance on Ex Parte Communications](#) webpage for additional information.

Handbooks Update

For release July 2023

FAA-H-8083-25B, Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge

- The handbook will take on a "C" revision letter.
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-25C.
- This revision of the handbook is being updated to address:
 - Incorporation of the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge Addendum A, dated 2/2021
 - Incorporation of the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge Addendum B, dated 1/2022
 - Incorporation of the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge Addendum C, dated 3/2023
 - Incorporation of language to answer National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Safety Recommendation (SR) A-21-020
- This revision is considered a minor revision.
- A major revision is underway, and is planned for release in June 2024.

FAA-H-8083-30A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – General

- The handbook will take on a "B" revision letter.
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-30B.
- The handbook is being updated to address editorial changes, and is considered a minor revision.
- A major revision is currently underway, and is planned for release in June 2024.

FAA-H-8083-31A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – Airframe

- The handbook will take on a "B" revision letter.
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-31B.
- This revision of the handbook is being combined into one handbook, instead of two volumes.
- The handbook is being updated to address editorial changes, and is considered a minor revision.
- A major revision is planned to begin in 2023, which will take at least 3 years to complete.

FAA-H-8083-32A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – Powerplant

- The handbook will take on a “B” revision letter.
- The new identifying number will be FAA-H-8083-32B.
- This revision of the handbook is being combined into one handbook, instead of two volumes.
- The handbook is being updated to address editorial changes, and is considered a minor revision.
- A major revision is planned to begin in 2023, which will take at least 3 years to complete

For release June 2024

- FAA-H-8083-13A, Glider Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-15B, Instrument Flying Handbook
- FAA-H-8083-25C, Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (Major revision)
- FAA-H-8083-30B, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook – General (Major revision)

Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements

There will be no [supplement](#) revisions in 2023.