



June 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 tests 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 Airman Certification Standards (ACS) and Practical Test Standards (PTS) to acsptsinquiries@faa.gov.

Airman Knowledge Testing Update

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; consistency and clarity in terminology, structure, and formatting; and alignment of content with FAA regulations, testing and certification standards, and reference figures and materials. Although the FAA does not provide sample questions or share active question content with stakeholders, the following information **will be posted** in the ATCA:

- new content tested,
- content no longer tested, and
- terminology changes.

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 test offerings, **31** tests now have ACS codes displayed on the corresponding Airman Knowledge Test Reports (AKTR). These tests are listed below and are also indicated by light blue shading in the [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#).

Exams Using ACS Codes for Feedback on Airman Knowledge Test Reports	
Test Code	Test Name
	AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN: GENERAL, AIRFRAME, & POWERPLANT
AMA	Aviation Maintenance Technician Airframe
AMG	Aviation Maintenance Technician General
AMP	Aviation Maintenance Technician Powerplant
	AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT, & FLIGHT NAVIGATOR
ACM	Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine Airplane - Canadian Conversion
ASC	Airline Transport Pilot Single Engine Airplane - Canadian Conversion
ATM	Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine Airplane
ATS	Airline Transport Pilot Single Engine Airplane (135)
	COMMERCIAL PILOT & MILITARY COMPETENCE
CAX	Commercial Pilot Airplane
CCH	Commercial Pilot Helicopter - Canadian Conversion
CCP	Commercial Pilot Airplane - Canadian Conversion
CRH	Commercial Pilot Helicopter
MCN	Military Competence Non-Category
	INSTRUCTOR
AFA	Flight Instructor Airplane (Added Rating)
FIA	Flight Instructor Airplane
FOI	Fundamentals of Instructing
FRH	Flight Instructor Helicopter
HFA	Flight Instructor Helicopter (Added Rating)
	INSTRUMENT RATING
ICH	Instrument Rating Helicopter - Canadian Conversion
ICP	Instrument Rating Airplane - Canadian Conversion
IEP	Instrument Rating Airplane - EU Part - FCL Conversion
IFB	Instrument Rating - Foreign Pilot via BASA (61.71)
IFP	Instrument Rating - Foreign Pilot via Non-BASA (61.75)
IRA	Instrument Rating Airplane
IRH	Instrument Rating Helicopter
	RECREATIONAL & PRIVATE PILOT

Exams Using ACS Codes for Feedback on Airman Knowledge Test Reports	
PAR	Private Pilot Airplane
PCH	Private Pilot Helicopter - Canadian Conversion
PCP	Private Pilot Airplane - Canadian Conversion
PEP	Private Pilot Airplane - EU Part - FCL Conversion
PFB	Private Pilot Airplane - Foreign Pilot via BASA (61.71)
PRH	Private Pilot Helicopter
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS	
UAG	Unmanned Aircraft General - Small

Test Question Performance

The Airman Knowledge Testing Team identifies questions with low-performance values and reviews them to ensure accuracy, clarity, and proper references.

- The team identified Aviation Maintenance Technician General (AMG) knowledge test questions concerning 14 CFR part 39 that are not performing well. During a review, we found the questions are accurate, and the references are current and correct. We are concerned students do not understand 14 CFR part 39 and may need further instruction.

Statistics

- 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.
- The CY 2023 Airman Knowledge Test statistics are available at this link: [Airmen Knowledge Test Statistics](#).
- **COMING SOON - Frequently Missed Knowledge Test ACS Codes Report!!!** 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. The report:
 - 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 time frame.
 - includes data for ACS codes administered at least 100 times.
 - displays ACS Codes missed more than 70% of the time on specific knowledge tests.

Handbooks Update

The Testing Standards Section is revisiting our internal processes for developing and maintaining 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.

Incorporation by Reference (IBR)

The Testing Standards Section will publish updates for the PTS and ACS through a rulemaking process called Incorporation by Reference (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 codifies 15 Airman Certification Standards (ACS) and 18 Practical Test Standards (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 goes into effect 60 days later, 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](#).

The FAA also published Notice 8900.691, *Airman Certification Standards and Practical Test Standards for Airmen; Incorporation by Reference*, to clarify the applicable testing standards during the transition period between the publication date and the effective date for this final rule. In addition, this notice clarifies how to identify the deficient areas of a knowledge test based on PTS testing codes and apply them to the new ACS when planning for an upcoming practical test. The notice can be viewed at this link: https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1042575

Frequently Asked Questions

The latest version of the Testing Standards Section FAQs document is available at this link: [Frequently Asked Questions](#).