



March 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.

For comments related to Airman Certification Standards (ACS) and Practical Test Standards (PTS) please email your comments to acsptsinquiries@faa.gov.

Airman Knowledge Testing Update

Multi-Factor Authentication

Effective January 2, 2024, the FAA 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.

Supplement Books

We are currently reviewing supplements to identify any needed changes for 2025.

Matrix

The latest Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix version is available at this link: [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#).

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

The 20 airman knowledge tests, which currently have ACS codes printed on the corresponding Airman Knowledge Test Report (AKTR), are indicated by blue shading of applicable test codes in the July 31, 2023, matrix located at this link: [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#).

In coordination with the new ACS documents, effective May 31, 2024, AKTRs will display applicant feedback reflecting the applicable ACS codes. An updated matrix reflecting the affected tests will be posted on faa.gov soon.

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](#). The 2023 1st Quarter update is the final posting of the “School NORMs vs. National Passing NORMs” Report. This report format will no longer be produced.

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

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