



*May 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](mailto:afs630comments@faa.gov).

Please email comments related to Airman Certification Standards (ACS) and Practical Test Standards (PTS) to [acsptsinquiries@faa.gov](mailto: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.

### Matrix

Several FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix updates are effective May 31, 2024. This latest version indicates the following **11** exams are now added to the list of those with ACS codes printed on the corresponding Airman Knowledge Test Report (AKTR):

- Flight Instructor Airplane (FIA)

- Flight Instructor Airplane (Added Rating) (AFA)
- Flight Instructor Helicopter (Added Rating) (HFA)
- Fundamentals of Instructing (FOI)
- Commercial Pilot Helicopter (CRH)
- Commercial Pilot Helicopter Canadian Conversion (CCH)
- Instrument Rating Helicopter (IRH)
- Instrument Rating Helicopter Canadian Conversion (ICH)
- Flight Instructor Helicopter (FRH)
- Private Pilot Helicopter (PRH)
- Private Pilot Helicopter Canadian Conversion (PCH)

The [Matrix](#) content has also been reviewed to ensure accuracy, update retest authorization information, add a reference, and make minor grammatical changes:

- On page 3, [14 CFR Part 107](#), Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, has been added to the Reference Material Links.
- The “Acceptable forms of retest authorization...” on pages 6, 8, 12, and 14 have been updated to include “... other forms of first take authorization....”
- The “Acceptable forms of retest authorization...” on pages 5, 7, 10, 11, and 13 have been updated to include “...other form of first-take authorization if an authorization is required....”
- On page 10, the updated statement reads, “Authorization for Flight and Ground Instructor tests listed above **(SIA through SIY).**” On page 10, the updated statement reads, “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).**”

## 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

In coordination with the effective date of the new ACS documents, we have added **11** tests to the list of those with applicant feedback, displayed as ACS codes, on the corresponding AKTR. Of the **89** FAA airman knowledge test offerings, this brings the total to **31** tests with ACS codes. These tests are listed below, and the corresponding test codes are indicated by light blue shading in the [FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#).

Test Code	Test Name	CY23 Test Volume	CY23 Pass Rate	CY23 Average Score
<b>AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN: GENERAL, AIRFRAME, &amp; POWERPLANT</b>				
AMA	Aviation Maintenance Technician Airframe	12,557	74.50%	75.67%
AMG	Aviation Maintenance Technician General	15,815	72.41%	74.78%
AMP	Aviation Maintenance Technician Powerplant	12,864	67.26%	73.81%
<b>AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT, &amp; FLIGHT NAVIGATOR</b>				
ACM	Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine Airplane - Canadian Conversion	142	100%	93.72%
ASC	Airline Transport Pilot Single Engine Airplane - Canadian Conversion	1	100%	95%
ATM	Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine Airplane	11,000	99.71%	93.47%
ATS	Airline Transport Pilot Single Engine Airplane (135)	123	96.75%	88.87%
<b>COMMERCIAL PILOT &amp; MILITARY COMPETENCE</b>				
CAX	Commercial Pilot Airplane	17,428	98.53%	89.14%
CCH	Commercial Pilot Helicopter - Canadian Conversion	37	97.30%	83.86%
CCP	Commercial Pilot Airplane - Canadian Conversion	122	98.36%	85.84%
CRH	Commercial Pilot Helicopter	722	97.92%	88.58%
MCN	Military Competence Non-Category	3,338	98.32%	90.94%
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>				
AFA	Flight Instructor Airplane (Added Rating)	48	87.50%	83.25%
FIA	Flight Instructor Airplane	12,347	94.52%	88.07%
FOI	Fundamentals of Instructing	12,929	98.58%	90.53%
FRH	Flight Instructor Helicopter	486	96.50%	87.38%
HFA	Flight Instructor Helicopter (Added Rating)	42	90.48%	86.48%
<b>INSTRUMENT RATING</b>				
ICH	Instrument Rating Helicopter - Canadian Conversion	4	100%	86.50%
ICP	Instrument Rating Airplane - Canadian Conversion	110	94.55%	87.09%
IEP	Instrument Rating Airplane - EU Part - FCL Conversion	36	97.22%	89.06%
IFB	Instrument Rating - Foreign Pilot via BASA (61.71)	15	93.33%	86.60%
IFP	Instrument Rating - Foreign Pilot via Non-BASA (61.75)	172	95.35%	86.41%
IRA	Instrument Rating Airplane	23,363	94.44%	85.84%
IRH	Instrument Rating Helicopter	614	94.46%	84.59%
<b>RECREATIONAL &amp; PRIVATE PILOT</b>				
PAR	Private Pilot Airplane	45,820	90.30%	82.05%
PCH	Private Pilot Helicopter - Canadian Conversion	2	100%	92.50%
PCP	Private Pilot Airplane - Canadian Conversion	44	100%	85.93%
PEP	Private Pilot Airplane - EU Part - FCL Conversion	63	93.65%	84.79%
PFB	Private Pilot Airplane - Foreign Pilot via BASA (61.71)	1	100%	78%
PRH	Private Pilot Helicopter	1,116	94.18%	84.71%
<b>UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS</b>				
UAG	Unmanned Aircraft General - Small	63,935	87.07%	81.22%

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter update is the final posting of the “School NORMs vs. National Passing NORMs” report format, which 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](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](#).