

What's New and Upcoming in Airman Testing

(New Edition: May 31, 2018)

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[Use of a Complex Airplane During a Commercial Pilot or Flight Instructor Practical Test](#)

Effective April 24, 2018, the FAA made a change to the Commercial Pilot Airplane Airman Certification Standards (ACS) and the Flight Instructor Airplane Practical Test Standards (PTS) to reflect that the practical test for a single-engine rating no longer requires the applicant to supply a complex airplane. The airplane supplied by the applicant must be capable of accomplishing all areas of operation required for the practical test, meet the requirements specified in 14 CFR part 61, section 61.45, and must be the appropriate category and class for the rating sought.

Commercial Pilot-Airplane Airman Certification Standards (ACS), with Change 3:
https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acs/.

Flight Instructor Practical Test Standards for Airplane (PTS), with Change 6:
https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/test_standards/#flightInstructors.

[FAA Notice 8900.463, Use of a Complex Airplane During a Commercial Pilot or Flight Instructor Practical Test:](#)
https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Notice/N_8900.463.pdf.

[Airman Certification Standards \(ACS\) New Development Update](#)

- FAA-S-ACS-1, Aviation Mechanic General, Airframe and Powerplant ACS—the estimated publication date for the final ACS is June 2020
 - The [Draft AMT ACS](#) has been posted on the Airman Testing website for public comment until May 31, 2018
- FAA-S-ACS-11, Airline Transport Pilot ACS—the estimated publication date for the final ACS is October 2018 with a planned effective date of February 2019
- FAA-S-ACS-9, Instructor ACS—the estimated publication date for the final ACS is June 2019
- FAA-S-ACS-12, Military Competency for Commercial Pilot Certification ACS—the estimated publication date for the final ACS is August 2018 with a planned effective date of October 2018
- FAA-S-ACS-15, Private Rotorcraft Pilot (Helicopter & Gyroplane) ACS—the estimated publication date for the final ACS is TBD

[Airman Certification Standards \(ACS\) Revision Update](#)

ACSs scheduled for release in June 2018:

- FAA-S-ACS-6A, Private Pilot Airplane ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-7, Commercial Pilot Airplane ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-8A, Instrument Rating ACS
- FAA-S-ACS-10A, Remote Pilot – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Certification and Recurrent Knowledge Testing) ACS

[Knowledge Test Management Services](#)

For more information, click [here](#).

[Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements \(CT-8080 series\)](#)

Airman Knowledge Test Supplements effective June 2018:

- FAA-CT-8080-1E, Airman Knowledge Test Supplement for Commercial Pilot
- FAA-CT-8080-2H, Airman Knowledge Test Supplement for Sport Pilot, Recreational Pilot, Remote Pilot, and Private Pilot
- FAA-CT-8080-4G, Airman Knowledge Test Supplement for Aviation Mechanic General, Airframe, and Powerplant; and Parachute Rigger
- FAA-CT-8080-5H, Airman Knowledge Test Supplement for Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor, and Sport Pilot Instructor

Airman Knowledge Test Supplement effective February 2019:

- FAA-CT-8080-7D, Airman Knowledge Test Supplement for Airline Transport Pilot and Aircraft Dispatcher

[Reference Handbooks](#)

With the assistance of aviation community members of the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) Airman Certification Standards (ACS) Working Group (WG), the FAA is reviewing and revising a number of its reference handbooks.

Handbooks scheduled for release in September 2018:

- FAA-H-8083-31A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook—Airframe
- FAA-H-8083-32A, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook—Powerplant

[FAA Airman Knowledge Tests](#)

Changed test question activation dates for 2018:

- 6/11/2018
- 10/15/2018

The [Knowledge Testing Authorization Requirements Matrix](#) has been updated.

Please discard the 6/12/17 version of the Matrix, once the new version becomes effective on 6/11/18.

General Information Applicable to Pilot Knowledge Test Banks

- The FAA has developed test questions on the new BasicMed regulation. Third-class medical questions will remain, since BasicMed is an addition to the medical certification structure, not a replacement of the third-class medical.
 - Because BasicMed will be an element in the updated ACS, applicants should be prepared to be tested on BasicMed.
- New questions based on FAA Form 7233-4, International Flight Plan (ICAO format)—release date is TBD.
- Student Pilot/Medical Certificate - New questions based on the Student Pilot Certificate rule that took effect on April 1, 2016 are being developed. We expect to add these questions to appropriate knowledge tests by October 15, 2018.

General Information Applicable to Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Knowledge Test Banks

- Knowledge test questions covering the new 14 CFR part 23 rule that went into effect on August 30, 2017 will be developed for future versions of the AMT General Knowledge Exam.
- 14 CFR part 23 questions that are not relevant or valid have been removed from the AMG, AMA, AMP and IA tests. Valid part 23 questions will remain on the ‘live’ knowledge tests. Some new part 23 questions have been added to the Sample Questions.
- AMT applicants should be prepared to be tested on Helicopter Aerodynamics on the AMT General Knowledge Exam.
- AMT applicants taking the AMT General Knowledge Exam should be prepared to be tested on the following topics: 14 CFR part 1, coil inductor construction, human errors, maintenance manual documentation, and special flight permits.
- AMT knowledge test applicants should be prepared for calculations that require interpolation.
- All AMG test questions were reviewed and aligned with the ACS.

Changes Applicable to the Instrument Rating Airplane (IRA) Knowledge Test

- The following subject(s) have been removed:
 - VOR/DME RNAV

Changes Applicable to the Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine (ATM) and Aircraft Dispatcher (ADX) Knowledge Tests

- The following subject(s) have been removed:
 - VOR/DME RNAV

Changes Applicable to the Inspection Authorization (IA) Knowledge Test

- All IA form tests now include test questions on approved data for major alterations and repairs.
- Revalidating existing 14 CFR part 23 test questions on current IA form tests that are applicable to the part 23 revision.

Changes to Airman Knowledge Test Guides

- A change to the Flight Engineer Knowledge Test Guide is planned for June 2018.
- A change to the Canadian Conversion Knowledge Test Guide is planned for August 2018.

For previous versions of the *What's New and Upcoming in Airman Testing*, visit the [Archives page](#).