



DME Tips

AFS-640

FAA and Industry Partner to Update Mechanic Testing

Since last year, a working group of FAA and industry representatives have been developing certification standards. These standards will guide the development of the written, oral and practical aircraft mechanic test. Once completed, the aviation maintenance technician (AMT) airman certification standards (ACS) will replace current practical test standards (PTS), which sets forth the framework for the oral and practical tests. The AMT ACS will provide:

- a single standard for written and practical testing;
- coding anchored in the standard (vice references) that will clearly connect the standards to guidance; and
- test questions to ensure examiners and applicants know subject areas passed and/or failed.

Did You Know?

As of September 15, 2017, **268** DME Test Users have downloaded more than **24,700** tests from the Mechanic Test Generator. Currently there are 11 DMEs that have at least 3 ungraded test in the MTG that are over 30 days. 4 DMEs have at least 2 ungraded test in the MTG that is over 60 days.

Since we launched the system two years ago, we have implemented substantial improvements. Thank you for your efforts in implementing this innovative testing system.

The pilot community launched the ACS in 2011 to address some very familiar challenges. The first ACS was initiated as an effort to fix the pilot knowledge tests; exam questions were often outdated, irrelevant and trickier than meaningful. Test preparation became an exercise in memorizing correct answers. Since the private, instrument, commercial, and remote pilot ACS went into effect, an ACS Exam Review Board (AEB) comprised of diverse FAA subject matter experts and a designated industry member has reviewed every active question in the pilot knowledge test bank. Questions that do not align with the new standards have been edited or archived. As a result, designated pilot examiners report better prepared applicants and more efficient practical tests (just ask your local DPE what he or she thinks of the “change”).

The working group is developing the AMT ACS using the proven processes and framework created for the pilot ACS. Once completed, it will provide a guide for reviewing and revising handbooks, oral questions, practical projects, ...

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...and the knowledge test bank to ensure adherence with the standard. As on the pilot side, an AMT AEB will review the entire question bank and verify that questions can be tied to a specific ACS code. Through the AEB, outdated questions and projects will be replaced with relevant assessment material. Incorrect, incomplete, or inadequate questions and projects will be updated or removed.

The estimated publication date for the AMT ACS is tentatively set for fall 2018. After its initial release, the AMT ACS will be periodically reviewed and revised to ensure it remain aligned to mechanic knowledge and skill requirements as technology evolves.

The ACS is truly a product of agency and industry collaboration, and its success is reflected in the quality of the final product. DMEs, aviation maintenance technician schools, industry, and the agency all have a part to play to ensure its success. All are invited and encouraged to submit comment to the latest draft, available on the Aviation Technician Education Council website. Please submit all feedback and comments to atec@atec-amt.org for compilation.

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There are some changes coming to the TPE site:

1. When you create and edit an applicant, it will prompt a pop up.
2. Creating a new test will also prompt a pop up.
3. There is more information on who created a test and when was the test created when posting results or verifying results.

These changes should help to ensure that all information is accurate and exactly matches the 8610-2 form. It also gives DMEs information on who created a test should it have been someone else. This way if you have a question you can contact the DME who originally gave the prior exam should you need to.

NOTE: When you try to edit an applicant and they have a completed test in the system you MUST contact AFS-640 to edit that applicant.

In order for us to be more responsive to TPEs, we created a link on the TPE Home page where you can submit questions, concerns, or suggestions. The email address is 9-AFS-640-TPE-Training@faa.gov.

If you have any questions about this or any other topic, or want to suggest a topic for a future issue of DME Tips, please use this link. Please note that this link is only for your questions regarding functionality of the TPE page such as Oral questions, Projects, Planning Sheets, Temporary Airman Certificates, etc. Other questions should be directed to your FAA managing office. Thank You.