

# FAA FIRC Facts

## FAA FIRC Headlines:

- New FIRC Newsletter online.
- New AC 61-83F expected in '07.
- Paper TCOs going away!
- FITS training expanding.
- Getting Listed on the FAA Website.

FAA AFS810 *Flight Standards Certification and General Aviation Operations*  
Gregory French, National FIRC Program Manager

## New FIRC Quarterly Newsletter

Hello, and welcome to this first issue of the quarterly **FAA FIRC Facts** newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide specialized Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic information primarily to FIRC providers. However, as it is on the FAA's public website, it is open to all. Flight Instructors (CFIs), as well as Designated Pilot Examiners (DPEs), and others may also find it to be of interest.

The idea here is to ensure that all of those who are involved in some way in FIRCs have the latest information regarding the rapidly evolving flight training environment.

An example of one of the most recent and significant changes in the GA flight training world is the FAA/Industry Flight Training Standards, or FITS, which is discussed a bit more later in this issue.

Since this newsletter is for and about you – the providers and users of FIRCs – it is your venue. Therefore, this is going to be your opportunity to “get the word out” on issues that concern YOU! Ideas, thoughts, suggestions, are all welcome and will contribute to the success of this newsletter. Please send your contributions to: [gregory.french@faa.gov](mailto:gregory.french@faa.gov), and again, thank you and welcome.

## New AC 61-83F Coming This Year

You've probably heard rumors of it going around – and yes – it's true: a new FIRC Advisory Circular (AC) is on the horizon. Version F is currently under development and is expected to be released by the end of 2007.

Not to worry though. While there will be a number of important changes coming, they won't be drastic and probably will only have minimal impact on those of you already providing FIRC content.

Yes, there will be some changes to your TCOs. But most of those changes will be at *your request!* Those of you who have been providing FIRC content for the last couple of years are aware that AFS 810 (it was AFS 840) canvassed all of you for your thoughts back in 2004/5.

Well, we've been listening, and you've had some good ideas (you're reading one of them right now). With this new version you're going to see many of them

implemented (“...*be careful of what you ask for...*”). But it's not done yet.

Ideas keep coming in and the AC continues to evolve to meet the needs of a dynamic flight training environment. And as you're reading this, if you've got ideas, send them in and give us a chance to look at them. Your idea may be just the one we've been looking for to improve this FAA/industry collaborative effort. Simply email: [gregory.french@faa.gov](mailto:gregory.french@faa.gov).



## Paper Training Course Outlines Going Away



Welcome to the “paperless society.” Yeah, well... Anyhow, we’re trying. And one of the ways we’re trying is to finally get rid of the requirement that FIRC providers submit 2 (!) paper copies of their Training Course Outlines (TCO).

We’re finally done with that as there’s simply no longer any need.

No need for the *PAPER* copy, that is – we’re still going to need your TCO. Only now, you can simply email it in to us and we’ll approve everything by return email, and, in some cases, fax.

It’s about time, don’t you think? We know that the FIRC providers hate packaging up a half-forest worth of paper, shipping it off to us, and waiting this side of forever to find out if

it even made the trip.

No more! Simply email your TCO to [gregory.french@faa.gov](mailto:gregory.french@faa.gov) and turnaround time should be down to just a few days (well...most of the time, anyhow – we’re sure gonna’ try). Since everything will now be in “e” form, I’ll even be able to retrieve and review documents while I’m on the road. This will be great for you, me, and the trees.

*Welcome to the paperless society...FAA to get rid of the requirement for paper TCO submissions*



## FITS Training Expanding

FAA/Industry Training Standards – it’s a term that’s continuing to spread throughout the flight training world. More and more flight instructors are completing “**FITS Accepted**” instructor training and more and more schools are looking to post the FAA’s “**FITS Accepted**” logo on their doors and windows.

This is a good thing, as the tenants of FITS, Single Pilot Resource

Management (SRM), Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM), Automation Management, Learner Centered Grading, and Scenario-Based Training, are all proven factors in improving flight safety.

Because of the growing implementation of the FITS training paradigm, and the growing use of the term, it is important that all flight instructors be familiar and comfortable with the concept, what it

means and how to teach it. Many already are – some are just not yet familiar with the FITS term or structure.

As stated in a memo to providers in 2004, all FIRC providers must include a module specific to FITS in their FIRCs (that memo and a follow-on memo are elsewhere on this site). This is just a reminder – expect to see it as a specific requirement in the upcoming Advisory Circular.

## Get Your FIRC Listed on the FAA’s FIRC Website



We are going to begin listing Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic providers on this website. But... we need your permission to do so first. If you wish to be listed, we’re going to need explicit written permission from you allowing us to publish your information (that’s right –

written *email* permission will do just fine – you know the address by now). What information will we publish you ask? Well, certainly your name. If you wish, will also list your address, general geographic area of coverage, phone numbers, email address

and/or website url (we will not provide direct links, however). This will serve your business as well as help the public in finding where to go to attend a FIRC.

We will begin publishing once a sufficient number of providers have granted permission.