PARACHUTE RIGGER

KNOWLEDGE TEST GUIDE

2007

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Flight Standards Service

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INTRODUCTION

FAA-G-8082-15C, Parachute Rigger Knowledge Test Guide, provides information for preparing to take the following knowledge tests. This document supersedes FAA-G-8082-15B, dated 2007.

The minimum passing score is 70 percent.

TEST NAME	TEST CODE
Parachute Rigger	RIG
Parachute Rigger—Military Competence	RMC

As parachuting has grown over the last 35 years, so has the need for skilled riggers. The introduction of the ram-air canopy gave the sport a parachute that is highly maneuverable and capable of gentle landings. This advancement of parachute technology opened the sport to many persons who would not have considered it a few years ago. As a result of the rapid expansion of parachute technology, today's riggers are faced with an ever expanding variety of equipment, materials, and rigging requirements. The ram-air canopy, being more complex than the simple round canopy of a few years ago, requires different packing and repair methods, making it essential that today's rigger possess a high degree of knowledge and skill.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airman knowledge tests are effective instruments for aviation safety and regulation compliance measurement. However, these tests can only sample the vast amount of knowledge every pilot needs to operate safely in the National Airspace System (NAS).

Comments may be e-mailed to AFS630Comments@faa.gov.

KNOWLEDGE TEST ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The general qualifications for a Senior or Master Parachute Rigger's Certificate require that you have a combination of experience, knowledge, and skill.

If you are pursuing a Senior, Master, or Military Competence Certificate, you should carefully review the appropriate sections of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 65, subpart A and subpart F for detailed information pertaining to this subject.

KNOWLEDGE AREAS ON THE TESTS

Parachute rigger knowledge tests are comprehensive because they must test your knowledge in many subject areas. The knowledge test for military competence for senior parachute rigger consist of questions relating to the Code of Federal Regulations that pertain to parachuting; part 39 – Airworthiness Directives, part 65 – Certification: Airmen Other Than Flight Crewmembers, subpart A (General), and subpart F (Parachute Riggers), and part 105, Parachute Operations.

If you are pursuing a Senior Parachute Rigger Certificate, you should review 14 CFR part 65, section 65.115.

If you are pursuing a Military Competence Senior Parachute Rigger Certificate, you should review 14 CFR part 65, section 65.117.

If you are pursuing a Master Parachute Rigger Certificate, you should review 14 CFR part 65, section 65.119.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TESTS

All test questions are the objective, multiple-choice type. Each question can be answered by the selection of a single response. Each test question is independent of other questions; therefore, a correct response to one does not depend upon, or influence, the correct response to another. **The minimum passing score is 70 percent.**

The maximum time allowed for taking the test is 2 hours, and 1 hour for the military competence test. The allotted time is based on previous experience and educational statistics. This amount of time is considered more than adequate for applicants with proper preparation and instruction.

- The Parachute Rigger (RIG) test contains 50 questions, and you are allowed 2 hours to complete it.
- The Parachute Rigger Military Competence (RMC) test contains 25 questions, and you are allowed 1 hour to complete it.

Communication between individuals through the use of words is a complicated process. In addition to being an exercise in the application and use of aeronautical knowledge, a knowledge test is also an exercise in communication since it involves the use of the written language. Since the tests involve written rather than spoken words, communication between the test writer and the person being tested may become a difficult matter if both parties do not exercise care. Consequently, considerable effort is expended to write each question in a clear, precise manner. Make sure you carefully read the instructions given with each test, as well as the statements in each test item.

When taking a test, keep the following points in mind.

- Answer each question in accordance with the latest regulations and guidance publications.
- Read each question carefully before looking at the possible answers. You should clearly understand the problem before attempting to solve it.
- After formulating an answer, determine which choice corresponds with that answer. The answer chosen should completely resolve the problem.
- From the answers given, it may appear that there is more than one possible answer; however, there is only one answer that is correct and complete. The other answers are either incomplete, erroneous, or represent common misconceptions.
- If a certain question is difficult for you, it is best to mark it for review and proceed to the next question. After you answer the less difficult questions, return to those which you marked for review and answer them. The review marking procedure will be explained to you prior to starting the test. Although the computer should alert you to unanswered questions, make sure every question has an answer recorded. This procedure will enable you to use the available time to maximum advantage.

- When solving a calculation problem, select the answer closest to your solution. The problem has been checked with various types of calculators; therefore, if you have solved it correctly, your answer will be closer to the correct answer than any of the other choices.

PROCESS FOR TAKING A KNOWLEDGE TEST

The FAA has available hundreds of computer testing centers worldwide. These testing centers offer the full range of airman knowledge tests including military competence, instrument foreign pilot, and pilot examiner pre-designated tests. A list of computer testing designees (CTDs) and phone numbers is provided in the section titled, *Obtaining Training and Testing Publications and General Information*.

The first step in taking a knowledge test is the registration process. You may either call the central toll free 800 numbers or simply use the walk-in basis. If you choose to use the toll free 800 numbers to register, you will need to select a testing center, schedule a test date, and make financial arrangements for test payment. You may register for tests several weeks in advance, and you may cancel your appointment according to the CTD's cancellation policy. If you do not follow the CTD's cancellation policies, you could be subject to a cancellation fee.

If you are planning on taking the parachute rigger knowledge test for the first time, you will need to obtain permission to test. This may be accomplished at your local FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) or International Field Office (IFO). This should be done before contacting the testing center. When you visit the FSDO or IFO, you will be asked to fill out an FAA Form 8610-2, Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application, and to show documentation of your experience. You must also provide a permanent mailing address and positive proof of identification. The identification presented must include your current photograph, signature, and actual residential address, if different from the mailing address. This information may be presented in more than one form of identification.

Acceptable forms of identification include, but are not limited to, driver's licenses, government identification cards, passports, alien residency (green) cards, and military identification cards. Other forms of identification that meet the requirements of this paragraph are acceptable. Some applicants may not possess the identification documentation described. In any case, you should always check with your local FSDO or IFO if you are unsure of what kind of authorization to bring to the office.

Once your eligibility has been established, you will be given FAA Form 8610-2 properly completed and signed by the interviewing Airworthiness Safety Inspector (ASI). This is the form you must present at the testing center to take the test.

The next step is the actual registration process. This may be done either of two ways, you may contact the computer testing designees (CTDs) through their national 1-800 number (refer to the section titled *Obtaining Training and Testing Publications and General Information* for a listing of CTD's phone numbers), or call directly to a local site. A complete listing of test centers maybe found on the Internet at the web address: www.faa.gov, and under the heading "Education and Research." You will then need to schedule a test date, and make financial arrangements for test payment. You may register for the tests several weeks in advance, and you may cancel your appointment according to the computer testing

designee's (CTDs) cancellation policy. If you do not follow the CTD's cancellation policies, you could be subject to a cancellation fee.

At the test site, you will again be asked to provide proper identification and the completed FAA Form 8610-2. Testing center personnel will not begin the test until the required items are verified.

Before you take the actual test, you will have the option to review a tutorial that demonstrates test navigation and test formatting. It also provides some sample questions. The actual test is time limited; however, you should have sufficient time to complete and review your test.

Upon completion you will receive your Airman Knowledge Test Report, with the testing center's seal, which reflects your score.

The Airman Knowledge Test Report lists the learning statement codes for questions answered incorrectly. The total number of learning statement codes shown on the Airman Knowledge Test Report is not necessarily an indication of the total number of questions answered incorrectly.

The Learning Statement Reference Guide contains the listings of reference materials, learning statement codes, and learning statements. The learning statement codes, as used in airman testing, refer to a measurable statement of knowledge that a student should be able to demonstrate following a defined element of training. You should match the codes on your Airman Knowledge Test Report to the codes in the Learning Statement Reference Guide to review your areas of deficiency.

The listings of reference materials have been prepared by the FAA to establish references for all knowledge standards. The listings contain reference materials to be used when preparing for all airman knowledge tests.

The Learning Statement Reference Guide for Airman Knowledge Testing can be found at www.faa.gov, Education & Research tab, Airmen Testing, More Testing Information.

Your instructor is required to provide instruction on each of the knowledge areas listed on your Airman Knowledge Test Report and to complete an endorsement of this instruction. The Airman Knowledge Test Report must be presented to the examiner prior to taking the practical test. During the oral portion of the practical test, the examiner is required to evaluate the noted areas of deficiency.

Should you require a duplicate Airman Knowledge Test Report due to loss or destruction of the original, send a signed request accompanied by a check or money order for $1 payable to the FAA. Your request should be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration, Airman Certification Branch, AFS-760, P.O. Box 25082, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

VALIDITY OF AIRMAN KNOWLEDGE TEST REPORTS

Airman Knowledge Test Reports are valid for the 24-calendar-month period preceding the month you complete the practical test. If the Airman Knowledge Test Report expires before completion of the practical test, you must retake the knowledge test.

USE OF TEST AIDS AND MATERIALS

You may use aids, reference materials, and test materials within the guidelines listed below, if actual test questions or answers are not revealed.

The following guidelines apply.

- You may use any reference materials provided with the test.
- Dictionaries are not allowed in the testing area.
- The proctor makes the final determination relating to test materials and personal possessions you may take into the testing area.

DYSLEXIC TESTING PROCEDURES

If you are a dyslexic applicant, you may request approval from the local Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) or International Field Office (IFO) to take an airman knowledge test using one of the three options listed in preferential order.

1. **Option one.** Use current testing facilities and procedures whenever possible.
2. **Option two.** You may use a Franklin Speaking Wordmaster® to facilitate the testing process. The Wordmaster® is a self-contained electronic thesaurus that audibly pronounces typed in words and presents them on a display screen. It has a built-in headphone jack for private listening. The headphone feature must be used during testing to avoid disturbing others.
3. **Option three.** If you do not choose to use the first or second option, you may request a proctor to assist in reading specific words or terms from the test questions and supplement material. In the interest of preventing compromise of the testing process, the proctor must be someone who is non-aviation oriented. The proctor must provide reading assistance only, with no explanation of words or terms. When this option is requested, the FSDO or IFO inspector must contact the Airman Testing Standards Branch (AFS-630) for assistance in selecting the test site and proctor.

Prior to approval of any option, the FSDO or IFO inspector must advise you of the regulatory certification requirement of being able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language.

CHEATING OR OTHER UNAUTHORIZED CONDUCT

Computer testing centers must follow strict security procedures to avoid test compromise. These procedures are established by the FAA and are covered in FAA Order 8080.6, (as amended), Conduct of Airman Knowledge Tests. The FAA has directed testing centers to terminate a test at any time a test proctor suspects a cheating incident has occurred. An FAA investigation will then be conducted. If the investigation determines that cheating or unauthorized conduct has occurred, then any airman certificate or rating that you hold may be revoked, and you will be prohibited for 1 year from applying for or taking any test for a certificate or rating under 14 CFR part 65.

RETESTING PROCEDURES

If you receive a grade lower than 70 percent and wish to retest, you must present the following to testing center personnel.

- Failed Airman Knowledge Test Report.
- A written endorsement from an authorized instructor certifying that additional instruction has been given, and the instructor finds you competent to pass the test.

If you decide to retake the test in anticipation of a better score, you may retake the test after 30 days from the date your last test was taken. The FAA will not allow you to retake a passed test before the 30-day period has lapsed. Prior to retesting, you must give your current Airman Knowledge Test Report to the test proctor. The last test taken will reflect the official score.

OBTAINING TRAINING AND TESTING PUBLICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Most of the current Flight Standards Service airman training and testing publications can be obtained in electronic format from the Federal Aviation Administration's website www.faa.gov.

The training and testing publications and general information can be found on the opening page of that web site under the tab Education and Research.

You will find among other information the following at the web site. (If a publication is not available in electronic format, there is a listing of the current publication along with instructions on how to obtain paper copies.)

Note: Of particular interest to Parachute Riggers is the FAA handbook FAA-H-8083-17 (for current version see the website) Parachute Rigger Handbook. This is a large document and will take a few minutes to download.

- Advisory Circulars
- Airman Knowledge Test Questions
- Airman Knowledge Testing Sites
- Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements
- Airman Knowledge Testing Information
- Other Testing Information
- Practical Test Standards
- Test Statistics
- Training Handbooks
- Learning Statement Reference Guide
- Code of Federal Regulations

Advisory Circulars

The advisory circulars provide guidance and information on various subjects related to airman certification.

Airman Knowledge Test Items

The airman knowledge test items contain the airman knowledge question banks representative of questions for airman knowledge tests and the corresponding learning statement.

The sample questions that are published on the web site are organized by content category and represent the types of questions included in the actual test banks. Practicing these questions will help you become familiar with similar questions on the airman knowledge tests. The knowledge test is not designed to intimidate any prospective airman; it is designed to measure their understanding of the rules and regulations required to receive an FAA certificate.

The policy regarding public access to test questions is to continue publishing questions that affect special emphasis areas regarding safety, such as aeronautical decision making, airspace, aircraft performance, operations/airworthiness regulations, weather services and reports, etc. However, we do not publish all test questions. Many questions in the test banks are parallel in content area or format and publishing same types of questions would not help the applicant in determining areas to study. Examples would include questions involving a process or calculation, such as weight and balance or performance questions using a chart. Our intent in not publishing every question in the airman test bank is to respond to the public demand for proper evaluation of prospective airmen. It is our duty to respond to these issues and provide valid and reliable tests to make certain that qualified applicants meet the FAA airman knowledge testing standards.

Airman Knowledge Testing Sites

The Airman Testing portion of the web site www.faa.gov contains a current listing of computer testing designees and computer testing centers, and the registration telephone numbers required when registering for a test.

The following is a list of the computer testing designees authorized to give FAA airman knowledge tests. This list should be helpful in case you choose to register for a test or simply want more information. This information is current as of October 2007.

Computer Assisted Testing Service (CATS)

1801 Murchison Drive, Suite 288
Burlingame, CA 94010

Applicant inquiry and test registration: (800) 947-4228

From outside the U.S.: (650) 259-8550

LaserGrade Computer Testing

16821 S.E. McGillivray, Suite 201
Vancouver, WA 98683

Applicant inquiry and test registration: (800) 211-2753

From outside the U.S.: (360) 896-9111

Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements

The airman knowledge testing supplements contain the graphics, legends, and maps that are needed to successfully respond to certain knowledge test items.

Knowledge Test Guides

The knowledge test guides describe the knowledge testing policy and procedures for each certification area.

Other Computer Testing Information

Other computer testing information provides specific test information, such as test name, test code (three-digit test identifiers), number of questions, and the time (hours) allotted for each knowledge test. The test identifiers will assist you in selecting the proper test for the specific certification or rating being sought.

Practical Test Standards

The practical test standards outline the knowledge and skill requirements for each airman certificate and rating. The references listed in each task of the practical test standards indicate the specific publications used to develop the skill standards. The ability to issue immediate changes prior to publishing revised printed copies ensures the practical test standards are always accurate and usable.

Test Statistics

Test statistics for all airman knowledge tests are contained in a series of tables organized by year and subject area. Individual tables are provided for the following subject areas: test volume, pass rates, average test scores, countries, regions, and district offices.

Training Handbooks

The training handbooks are the basic information sources an airman applicant should refer to when preparing for the knowledge and practical tests for a specific certificate or rating.