

**File Code:** 5700**Date:** APR 09 2020**Route To:****Subject:** Revised Adjustments to Aviation Qualifications in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**To:** Regional Fire Directors

This letter supersedes and replaces the letter dated March 28, 2020. It provides revised guidance on the extension of aviation recurrent training requirements, Interagency Aviation Training qualifications, and 2020 RT-378 Aerial Supervision refresher training for calendar year 2020. This applies to all Forest Service and administratively determined employees. A copy of this letter shall be placed in employees' training folders.

In light of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is extending employees' aviation refresher training qualifications through calendar year 2020 as follows:

Employees will receive a one-year extension from their current aviation refresher training expiration date. If a virtual or online refresher training session is offered, every effort shall be made to complete the training. Currency will be identified in Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) and the extension implemented nationally through the agency's National Training Officer.

Interagency Aviation Training compliance re-currency training must be completed with the exception of A-307, A-309, RT-372 and RT-9059 courses. Qualifications for these exceptions are extended through April 30, 2021. Personnel may show compliance with a combination of their Interagency Aviation Training transcript and this letter.

The 2020 RT-378 Aerial Supervision Refresher will be self-study with quality assurance monitored by a Forest Service designated aerial supervision evaluator. All regions will implement the 2020 RT-378 Aerial Supervision Refresher as described below:

Self-Study:

- Review of applicable agency policies – (2020 National Wildfire Coordinating Group Standards for Aerial Supervision) – [PMS-505](#)
- Risk management/system safety – [Chapter 10 PMS-505](#)
- Mission procedures – [PMS-505e](#)
- Fire Traffic Area management – [PMS-505d](#)



- Fire and aviation weather – [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Aviation Weather](#) and [Weather Wise: Visual Flight Rules Flight Planning](#)
- Lessons learned/case studies – [Interagency Aviation Training A-200](#)
- Waived – RT-9059 – Crew Resource Management will be addressed during mission flight evaluations.

Proficiency Exercise – Completed by an Air Tactical Group Supervisor evaluator or final evaluator:

- Complete a proficiency exercise (moderate complexity sand table) [PMS-505h](#)
- OR
- Complete a proficiency mission flight (moderate complexity mission) [PMS-505h](#)

Upon completion of the 2020 RT-378 refresher elements, evaluators are to forward the PMS-505h – Aerial Supervision Mission Evaluation Sheet to the employee's training officer, and the Forest Service regional aerial supervision program manager. This letter and the mission evaluation sheet shall be placed in the employee's official training folder. Currency for RT-378 and RT-9059 Crew Resource Management will be updated in the incident qualification certification and certification system database, restarting the employee's three-year currency. If deficiencies are identified, the National Wildfire Coordination Group Standards for Aerial Supervision will be followed for remedial training requirements, which may occur next year.



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cc: Regional Foresters, Bill Hahnenberg, Mark Lichtenstein, Denise Blankenship, FAM Assistant Directors, Regional Aviation Officers, Aaron Schoolcraft, Jason Baldwin, Kent Hamilton, Jim Schultz, and Paul Linse