

TAD-494.4

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DATE: 12/3/76



# ADVISORY CIRCULAR

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**SUBJECT:** PUBLICATION OF NEW FAA WRITTEN TEST STUDY GUIDES

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1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular announces the revision of the written test study guides for selected testing areas which will contain representative questions and responses used in the current FAA certification tests.
2. REFERENCES. Federal Aviation Regulations 61.35, 63.17, 65.17 and 143.15.
3. DISCUSSION. In November 1974, the FAA adopted the "question book" method of testing applicants for airman certificates and ratings in several high volume testing areas. This method consists of a question book containing 600 or more questions and features the use of "question selection sheets," each of which is considered to be an individual test presenting a different set of questions. The question selection sheets contain numbers, randomly selected, that identify the questions to be answered by the applicant. The question selection sheets will be changed at a higher frequency than was possible with the issuance of the old format test booklets.

This method has been well received by applicants and FAA test administration personnel. It has reduced distribution and mailing costs as well as field office workload and storage space requirements. At the same time, the integrity of the written test process has been increased.


4. REVISED PROCEDURES. The FAA will publish written test study guides that will include many of the questions contained in the above-mentioned official written test question books. As in the past, these guides will be sold by the U.S. Government Printing Office. It is believed that availability of the new guides will be a valuable learning tool for students and a teaching aid for their instructors. In addition, public availability of the questions contained in the question books will contribute to the standardization of knowledge and at the same time provide maximum feedback to students concerning their performance on the tests. The study of this material alone will not provide the knowledge necessary for airman certification, nor will it meet the training requirements of the appropriate Federal Aviation Regulations.
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Initiated by: AFS-590

5. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFICIAL FAA TEST AND WRITTEN TEST GUIDES.

- a. At the time of publication, the test questions and answer selections appearing in the written test study guides will be representative of those used in the official FAA test booklet.
- b. While the official FAA test questions in the testing booklets will be revised as needed to reflect changes due to regulatory or policy actions or test validity, no attempt will be made to revise or update the questions appearing in the test study guides. Revisions to the questions appearing in the study guides will occur only during the normally scheduled revision cycle for the particular written test guide.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE. Based on current printing schedules, the first of the new written test guides will be available early in calendar year 1977. The first to be published will be the Airline Transport Pilot-Airplane and the Parachute Rigger, to be followed at intervals by the Flight Instructor-Airplane, Private Pilot-Airplane, Commercial Pilot-Airplane, Flight Engineer, and Instrument Rating Written Test Guides. The remaining written tests, including the Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Written Test Guides, will be converted to the new system as manpower and resources are available. Price and availability of each new guide will receive widespread publicity.

  
J. A. FERRARESE  
Acting Director, Flight Standards Service

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