

DMS Messaging: Clarification of Additional Rating(s) Tables in FAA-S-ACS-7B, Appendix 1

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is aware of the need to clarify a regulatory requirement contained in **Appendix 1: Practical Test Roles, Responsibilities, and Outcomes** of the *Commercial Pilot for Airplane Category Airman Certification Standards (ACS), FAA-S-ACS-7B*, dated November 2023. Specifically, there is confusion when interpreting **Area of Operation V. Performance Maneuvers and Ground Reference Maneuvers** in two of the additional rating(s) tables.

When referencing the Airplane Single-Engine Land (ASEL) and Airplane Single-Engine Sea (ASES) Rating information on pages 70 and 71 of the ACS:

The tasks within Area of Operation V. are:

- Task A. Steep Turns
- Task B. Steep Spiral (ASEL, ASES)
- Task C. Chandelles (ASEL, ASES)
- Task D. Lazy Eights (ASEL, ASES)
- Task E. Eights on Pylons (ASEL, ASES)

If a pilot holds an Airplane Multiengine Land (AMEL) or Airplane Multiengine Sea (AMES) rating, and wants to add an ASEL or ASES rating, Tasks **“B, C or D, E”** are required, and should be interpreted as follows:

- Task B must be accomplished;
- The evaluator has the option of choosing either Task C or Task D; and
- Task E must be accomplished.

If a pilot holds a Rotorcraft-Helicopter (RH) rating, and wants to add an ASEL or ASES rating, Tasks **“A or B, C or D, E”** are required, and should be interpreted as:

- The evaluator has the option of choosing either Task A or Task B; and
- The evaluator has the option of choosing either Task C or Task D; and
- Task E must be accomplished.

The requirements in the table have not changed since the original issuance of the Commercial Pilot Airplane ACS in 2017. In May 2024, the FAA incorporated all testing standards into the regulations now known as 14 CFR § 61.14. By incorporating these testing standards into the rule, these documents are now regulatory and are required to be complied with. During the incorporation of the rule, the FAA did not include the following explanatory text from page A-12 of the *Commercial Pilot-Airplane ACS, FAA-S-ACS-7A, dated June 2018*, additional ratings table, which stated:

- *“For Area of Operation V, AMEL and AMES columns, Task B must be accomplished, the evaluator has the option of choosing either Task C or Task D, and Task E must be accomplished.”*

The FAA did not anticipate potential confusion caused by the exclusion of this text; however, the requirement has not changed. During the next rulemaking, we will add the explanatory text back into the ACS Appendix.

Designees should contact their designee managing specialist for clarification regarding use of testing documents and associated FAA policies.