

Aircraft Maintenance Personnel Certification



Federal Aviation
Administration

The Government Credentialing Network

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Who does the FAA Certify?

Air Carriers

Scheduled Service

United Airlines
Delta Airlines
Southwest Airlines

On Demand Service

“Air Taxi”
Air Charters
Business Aviation

Schools

Pilot Schools
Training Centers
Maintenance Technician Schools

Maintenance Organizations

Repair Stations

People

Pilots

Flight Attendants

Aircraft Dispatchers

Mechanics

Repairman

Air Traffic Control Tower Operators

Parachute Riggers



Aircraft Maintenance Personnel Certification

General Terms and Definitions

AMT – Aircraft Maintenance Technician (Airframe and Power Plant Technician)

CHDO – (Certificate Holding District Office) The local FAA Office

Major Repair – A repair that, if improperly done, might appreciably affect weight, balance, structural strength, performance, power plant operation, flight characteristics, or other qualities affecting airworthiness.

Major Alteration – an alteration not listed in the aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller maintenance instructions.

Progressive Inspection – Conducting a complex inspection in smaller tasks which can be accomplished periodically ending in the complete inspection of the aircraft.

Repair Station – Similar to the automobile repair shop except for airplanes.

Return to Service – Unlike the automobile repair industry; in aviation the mechanic must take responsibility for all maintenance they perform. They are required to input the maintenance they performed, their signature, kind of certificate they hold, certificate number, and date in the aircraft maintenance records.

Training Center – An organization that provides training, testing, and checking under contract to air carriers.



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Mechanic Certification

Eligibility

To be eligible for a mechanic certificate and associated ratings, a person must—

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) Be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language.

Experience Requirements

- At least 18 months of practical experience with the procedures, practices, materials, tools, machine tools, and equipment generally used in constructing, maintaining, or altering airframes, or power plants appropriate to the rating sought; or
- At least 30 months of practical experience concurrently performing the duties appropriate to both the airframe and power plant ratings.



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Mechanic Ratings

Airframe



Power Plant

Knowledge Requirement

- (a) Each applicant for a mechanic certificate or rating must pass a written test covering the construction and maintenance of aircraft appropriate to the rating sought.
- (b) The applicant must pass each section of the test before applying for the oral and practical tests

Skill Requirement

Each applicant for a mechanic certificate or rating must pass an oral and a practical test on the rating sought. The tests cover the applicant's basic skill in performing practical projects on the subjects covered by the written test for that rating. An applicant for a power plant rating must show his ability to make satisfactory minor repairs to, and minor alterations of, propellers.

- **Certificate Duration** – The mechanic certificate is valid until it is surrendered, suspended or revoked

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Achieving the Experience Requirements



Inspection Authorization

- Hold a mechanic certificate with both Airframe and Power Plant ratings for 3 years
- Be working as a mechanic for at least the last 2 years
- Pass a written test

Privileges

- Inspect and approve for return to service any aircraft or related part or appliance after a major repair or major alteration to it.
- Perform an annual, or perform or supervise a progressive inspection.

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Inspection Authorization

Duration and Renewal

- The inspection authorization expires on March 31 of each odd-numbered year.

In order to be eligible for renewal the holder of an inspection authorization must :

- Perform at least one annual inspection for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority or
- Perform at least two major repairs or major alterations for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority; or
- Perform or supervise and approve at least one progressive inspection or
- Attend and successfully complete a refresher course of not less than 8 hours of instruction; or
- Passed an oral test by an FAA inspector to determine that the applicant's knowledge of applicable regulations and standards is current.



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Repairman Rating

Eligibility

To be eligible for a repairman certificate a person must—

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) Be specially qualified to perform maintenance on aircraft or components thereof, appropriate to the job for which the person is employed;
- (3) Be employed for a specific job requiring those special qualifications by a certificated repair station, or by a certificated air carrier,
- (4) Be recommended for certification by their employer as able to satisfactorily maintain aircraft or components, appropriate to the job for which the person is employed;
- (5) Have either—
 - (i) At least 18 months of practical experience in the procedures, practices, inspection methods, materials, tools, machine tools, and equipment generally used in the maintenance duties of the specific job for which the person is to be employed and certificated; or
 - (ii) Completed formal training that is specifically designed to qualify the applicant for the job on which the applicant is to be employed; and
- (6) Be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language.



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Repairman Rating

Skill Requirement

- Repairman ratings should coincide with the specialized skill or talent required from the person employed to perform the specific job.
- In no case will a repairman certificate be issued to circumvent an applicant obtaining a mechanic certificate with appropriate ratings.

Specific Job Examples

- Radio Overhaul (Communication, Navigation and Radar Equipment), Instrument Overhaul (Altimeter, Air Speed Indicator, Magnetic Compass), Nondestructive testing, Hydraulic Component Overhaul, Landing gear Overhaul...

Certificate Duration – The repairman certificate is valid until it is surrendered, suspended or revoked or until the person is no longer performs the duties for which they were employed, the repairman certificate is no longer effective and must be returned to the CHDO that issued the certificate by the employer with the reason for surrender.



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Questions

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