



From: David St. George, SAFE (Society of Aviation and Flight Educators)

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:00 AM

To: 9-AMC-Airman-Knowledge-Testing (FAA) <airmanknowledgetesting@faa.gov>

Subject: Stop The Damaging New PSI Contract Change!!

The recent change announced by PSI that reduces the amount paid to the 800 independent FAA testing centers from \$65 to \$22 will ruin the GA flight training network across the USA! These independent businesses cannot survive with a 70% reduction in revenue. Every local airport community will lose their testing center (usually the local aviation hub for gathering pilots and aviation training).

These smaller testing centers will be forced to close because this new rate will not provide enough \$\$ to allow them to even break even. FAA testing centers must provide (by contract) a quiet room, three computers, security cameras and a proctor for testing (in addition to the usual business expenses of rent, heat, insurance, etc.) With all this investment they cannot also afford to lose money on every FAA Knowledge test. The current \$65 per test is pathetic in the modern economy, a further reduction is untenable.

With this proposed PSI contract change, the PSI testing monopoly is effectively shutting down every community-based FAA testing center. These test centers usually support the local aviation flight school or flying club and are essential to the health of our US flight-training industry.

The FAA needs to step in and prevent this testing monopoly (PSI) from causing irreparable damage to American aviation...HELP!

David St. George (Executive Director of SAFE (5,000 CFI/DPE members)

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David St. George, DPE, MCFI

Mr. St. George,

The FAA awarded a fixed-price indefinite delivery services contract called the Airman Certificate Testing Service (ACTS) to PSI Services LLC in June of 2018, after a competitive bidding process. A portion of the scope of services outlined in the contract's Statement of Work (SOW) requires the testing vendor to provide physical testing centers where FAA Airman Knowledge Tests must be administered. The testing vendor utilizes a delivery model which includes both corporate owned and third-party testing centers to accomplish the test delivery requirement of the SOW.

How the testing vendor decides to compensate testing centers, proctors, call center personnel, software engineers, administrative personnel, test content staff, or any other key position associated with carrying out the requirements in the SOW is at the complete discretion of the testing vendor and outside the scope of the FAA's authority.

The testing fee for applicants taking a FAA Airman Knowledge Test is not changed. The national testing fee charged to the airman is a fixed-fee that conforms to the terms and conditions as defined by the contract with PSI. The fixed-fee charged to the airman by PSI covers all aspects of the ACTS contract beyond test delivery services which includes test development leadership, technology, compliance with government security standards, oversight, administrative support, and many other requirements.

PSI Services LLC, is operating within full compliance of their contract requirements with the FAA. While the FAA understands your concerns, we cannot require the testing vendor to compensate any specific employee or third-party facility they choose to partner with at a certain dollar amount.

We hope this helps to clarify the issues raised. The FAA thanks you for your service in support of the FAA's Airman Knowledge Testing Program.

Best Regards,

Federal Aviation Administration

Airman Testing Standards Branch, AFS-630