

Introduction of new Flight Radiotelephony Operator's Licence (FRTOL) Practical Test format and FRTOL Examiner Qualification Procedures

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Introduction

This guidance is for existing Radiotelephony (RTF) Examiners, prospective FRTOL Examiners, FRTOL candidates, Approved Training Organisations (ATOs), Declared Training Organisations (DTOs) and Training Providers. Its content will be applicable from 14 March 2022.

Further information will be available in the all new soon to be published FRTOL Examiners' Manual (CAP2118).

The CAA recognises the risks posed by non-adherence to standard Radiotelephony phraseology and aims to reduce aviation risks generated by such non-adherences.

The principal areas of concern are:

- Airspace Infringements that are often caused by the lack of understanding of the Air Traffic Service (ATS) provided and/or the use of an inappropriate ATS Unit (ATSU)
- Airprox events
- Increase in non-standard and non-compliant radiotelephony phraseology
- Increased ATS and AGCS workload
- Lack of pilot understanding regarding UK Flight Information Services available and how to make best use of them
- Pilot lack of confidence when transmitting on aeronautical radio frequencies
- Pilots and other users operating aeronautical radio equipment without holding a FRTOL

The CAA aims to improve the current FRTOL testing system by introducing a new and more relevant FRTOL practical test format.

To help achieve this and to provide ongoing oversight of FRTOL Examiner standards, a panel of FRTOL Senior Examiners has been formed. The panel consists of both Industry and CAA Examiners and has input from General Aviation, Commercial Air Transport, Military, and ATS subject matter experts. One of the panel members is appointed as FRTOL Chief Examiner. The FRTOL Chief Examiner reports directly to the CAA Head of Radiotelephony Standards who maintains overall responsibility.

The panel has worked with the CAA to create a new guidance document to replace the current Standards Document 4. This will be the new FRTOL Examiners' Manual (CAP2118).

A new training and testing procedure for examiners has also been developed and will be introduced with the new FRTOL Practical Test roll out programme.

All holders of RTF Examiner privileges will be trained on the new test format by one of the FRTOL Senior Examiners before transferring to the new format. A new Examiner Assessment of Competence (EAoC) has been developed and will apply to all current RTF Examiners applying to become FRTOL Examiners as well as initial FRTOL Examiner candidates. The RTF Examiner Authorisation will become obsolete on 31 December 2022 and will be replaced by the FRTOL Examiner Authorisation.

Significant Changes

The new FRTOL Examiners' Manual and associated policy will bring the following significant changes to the current test system outlined in Standards Document 4:

- Practical Test routes will be based on actual UK VFR Aeronautical charts and frequency reference cards.
- Candidates may choose their own aircraft category for the test (Aeroplane, Microlight, Helicopter etc), with test differences guidance given to FRTOL Examiners.
- CAA RTF Aide Memoire will be available to candidates for use in the planning part of the test.
- Scenario based oral questioning included in the Practical Test.
- Updated set of Communication multiple choice papers pending access to the eExam system
- A multiple-choice test paper based on CAP2118 and CAP413 for new FRTOL Examiner applicants (including current RTF Examiners applying for the new role of FRTOL Examiner).
- Initial and 3 yearly Examiner Assessment of Competence (EAoC).
- Introduction of new flexible test equipment requirements.
- Examiner standardisation framework.
- A new comprehensive Practical Test report form (SRG2160).
- Mandated audio recording of all FRTOL Practical Tests.
- Updated FRTOL Examiner application form (SRG1155).
- CAA Hot Topic presentation delivered to successful FRTOL Practical Test candidates.
- New updated form SRG1171 'Practical Test Training Syllabus – Record of Completion' is now a mandatory requirement and must be presented to the FRTOL Examiner prior to conducting the FRTOL Practical test.
- Comprehensive new Examiner Manual (CAP2118)
- Guidance document for FRTOL applicants
- New Panel of industry Senior Examiners
- RTF Examiner role becomes obsolete and replaced by FRTOL Examiner

Practical Test Training Syllabus - Record of Completion SRG1171

To enable FRTOL Examiners to verify that the required Radiotelephony training has been completed prior to the Practical Test, and to confirm that the candidate is aware of the subject matter and knowledge required, SRG 1171 has been updated and its completion is **mandatory for all test applicants from 1 June 2022**. This mandatory requirement also includes applicants who will be attempting the current RTF Practical Test with Examiners who have yet to transfer to the new system.