

Guidance for FRTOL Practical Test Candidates

CAP 2325 | March 2022

Introduction

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

The purpose of this document is to provide prospective FRTOL Practical Test candidates with all the relevant and important information in order to fully prepare for their FRTOL Practical Test.

The document relates to the new FRTOL Practical Test (effective 14th March 2022). Due to the roll out strategy, there will be an overlap of the new and old FRTOL Practical Test in 2022 as RTF Examiners transfer to the new system, therefore please check with your chosen Examiner to see which test system they are using.

Regulation of Licensing

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is the UK's independent aviation regulatory body responsible for the licensing of flight crew, aircraft maintenance engineers and air traffic personnel. This includes Flight Radiotelephony Operator's Licences (FRTOLs) and FRTOL Examiner Authorisations.

The Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 requires the Licensee of radio transmitting and receiving equipment installed in an aircraft to hold an Aircraft Radio Licence. The Licensee shall not permit any person to use the equipment unless they hold a FRTOL or act under the supervision of a person who holds a FRTOL issued by the CAA.

The Shared Services Centre is the division responsible for the issue of all licences, certificates and authorisations within the CAA.

Aircraft Radio Licences are issued by the Office of Communications (Ofcom).

Flight Radiotelephony Operator's Licence (FRTOL)

An applicant for the initial issue of a FRTOL must:

- be at least 16 years old.
- have passed the Communications Theoretical Knowledge Examination which must be completed before the Practical Test (the examination validity periods are as per FCL.025 - see paragraph 5.3).
- have passed the FRTOL Practical Test.
- have demonstrated English Language Proficiency (ELP) to level 4, 5 or 6 which must be valid on the date that the FRTOL is issued.

Applications for the issue of a FRTOL should be made online via the CAA website.

FRTOL Practical Test Training – Record of completion (SRG1171)

Prior to booking the Practical Test, the candidate must complete form SRG1171 and present this to the FRTOL Examiner. Form SRG1171 confirms that the minimum required Radiotelephony training has been completed prior to the Practical Test. It also confirms to the FRTOL Examiner that the candidate is aware of the subject matter and knowledge required in order to pass the test. Form SRG1171 must be signed by the person at the ATO, DTO or Training Organisation responsible for the training. Candidates who are not attending a recognised course of pilot training may self-certify. However, it is the responsibility of the FRTOL Examiner to first verify by questioning that the candidate has reached a satisfactory level of knowledge, prior to the Practical Test attempt.

Use of SRG1171 is mandatory from 1st June 2022 for all FRTOL Practical Test applicants. This mandatory requirement also includes applicants who will be attempting the outgoing RTF Practical Test with Examiners who have yet to transfer to the new system.

Booking FRTOL Tests

It is the candidate's responsibility to identify and contact a FRTOL Examiner to arrange a FRTOL Practical Test, however the applicant's chosen training organisation should be able to assist. A list of FRTOL Examiners is available on the CAA website (CAP 1585e).

Overview of the FRTOL Practical Test

The purpose of the FRTOL Practical Test is to verify that a candidate has achieved the required knowledge and skills to safely operate radio equipment on board an aircraft and understands standard compliant Radiotelephony phraseology.

Candidates are required to have completed the Communications examination prior to sitting the FRTOL Practical Test. If the Communications examination was conducted by a different Examiner, evidence of passing this examination shall be provided to the FRTOL Examiner conducting the Practical Test.

The Practical Test consists of a simulated VFR 'flight' and a series of scenario-based questions. The FRTOL Examiner will also deliver a short 'Hot topic' presentation to successful candidates.

All candidates for the FRTOL will be assessed in accordance with the standard phraseology contained within the latest edition of the CAA Radiotelephony Manual CAP 413.

The FRTOL Practical Test will be facilitated by simulating the Radiotelephony transmissions of a flight in any of the following aircraft categories:

- Single engine fixed wing aircraft (Cessna 152, Piper PA28 etc)
- Single engine rotary wing (Robinson R22 etc)
- Microlight (Flexwing & Fixed wing)
- Gyroplane
- Pure Glider or sailplane
- Hot air balloon or Airship

Candidates whose category is not listed above (e.g. UAS, Engineers etc.) will agree the most appropriate category to be used with the FRTOL Examiner prior to test.

The candidate may choose a standard UK aircraft registration to use as their call sign and nominate a suitable aircraft type which will be agreed by the FRTOL Examiner prior to commencement of the test.

The candidate will play the role of a pilot who holds a flight crew licence, flying solo in a fully serviceable aircraft with standard flight instruments, VHF aeronautical radio and a transponder with an altitude reporting feature.

Required items for the Practical Test

Prior to commencing the test, candidates must show the following items to the Examiner:

- Personal photo identification (E.g. Passport or Driving Licence).
- Completed and signed form SRG1171.
- Evidence of Communications examination pass by reference to eExams or form CAA5003 (if already completed).
- Previous FRTOL Practical Test failure form (SRG2129) and SRG1171 (if applicable).