


<b>Irish Aviation Authority</b> The Times Building 11–12 D’Olier Street Dublin 2, Ireland <a href="http://www.iaa.ie">www.iaa.ie</a>  <b>Safety Regulation  Division</b>	<b>Údarás Eitlíochta  na hÉireann</b> Foirgneamh na hAmanna 11–12 Sráid D’Olier Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire  <b>Rannán na Rialachán  Sábháilteachta</b>	No. PLAM 019 Revision 00 Area ACW Date 29.11.2019	
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## **TITLE: TRANSITION TO NEW FCL THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND EXAMINATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to notify stakeholders of the plan adopted by the IAA in relation to the transition to new FCL theoretical knowledge learning objectives and examinations for Flight Crew Licensing.

### **BACKGROUND**

In February 2018, EASA published Executive Director (ED) Decision 2018/001/R. This Decision contained the updated Learning Objectives (LOs) for the theoretical knowledge syllabi and ground school examinations and introduced the threat and error management (TEM) concept and its application. The updated LOs correspond to today’s operational environment and ensure that commercial pilots are equipped with the knowledge and understanding relevant to modern flight deck and current industry needs. The updated pilot training will contribute to the overall enhancement of the pilots’ core competencies and their ability to make informed decisions.

The Decision also introduced new LOs under Area 100 ‘Knowledge, skills and attitudes’ (KSA) whose aim is to enhance the pilots’ KSA contained in the core competencies. This Area 100 contains requirements for approved training organisations (ATOs) to assess student pilots’ KSA. These skills focus on the pilots’ ability to apply their knowledge and understanding across subjects and to demonstrate technical and non-technical skills. These LOs will, therefore, not be the subject of examinations organised by competent authorities or their agents but will be assessed by the ATOs to ensure that student pilots have an adequate level of competence before they are allowed to sit their final theoretical knowledge examinations.<sup>1</sup>

In November 2018, EASA published ED Decision 2018/011/R. This Decision addressed various non-controversial issues pertaining to the Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM) to Part-FCL and Part ARA of Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011 as regards:

- the detailed theoretical knowledge syllabi and learning objectives (LOs) for airline transport pilot licence (ATPL),
- multi-crew pilot licence (MPL), commercial pilot licence (CPL) and instrument rating (IR) for aeroplanes (A) and helicopters (H);
- the amended examination procedures related to the syllabus<sup>2</sup>

In August 2019, EASA published ED Decision 2019/017/R. It contained the new Subject 090 ‘Communications’, which replaces Subjects 091 ‘VFR Communications’ and 092 ‘IFR Communications’, as amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1974 of 14 December 2018 amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011. It also contains the amended examination procedures in the relevant AMCs to ARA.FCL.300(b) ‘Examination procedures’ regarding this new Subject 090 ‘Communications’.

This Decision also issued some editorial corrections to the AMCs to Appendix 6 and in the Learning Objectives (LOs) (i.e. AMC1 FCL.310; FCL.515(b); FCL.615(b) ‘Theoretical knowledge examination’) of Decision 2018/001/R and Decision 2018/011/R.<sup>3</sup>

### **TIMELINES**


Theoretical Examinations configured to the current LOs and allowed times may not be provided after 31 January 2022. As exams may span an 18-month period. Candidates that might start these examinations after June 2020 might not be able to complete the full suite of examinations.

Therefore, to ensure enough time is available for a candidate to complete their suite of examinations, applications for examinations under the current format will not be accepted from new candidates from end of June 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Text based on executive summary to Explanatory Note to Decision 2018/001/R

<sup>2</sup> Text based on executive summary to Explanatory Note to Decision 2018/011/R

<sup>3</sup> Text based on executive summary to Explanatory Note to Decision 2019/017/R

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New candidates will have to undertake examinations in accordance with the LOs as defined in EDs 2018/001/R, 2018/011/R and 2019/017/R. In some cases, examinations provided under the new LOs are subject to different allowed times. Refer to ED 2018/011/R for detail on this. Existing candidates who have already undertaken and passed examinations in the current format may continue to sit these examinations as they will have sufficient time to complete all before the January 2022 deadline.

Candidates should also note that under the examination procedures that apply with the provision of the new exams, the following applies:

***‘AMC1 FCL.025(a)(2) Theoretical knowledge examinations for the issue of licences and ratings***

***COMPLETION OF THE AREA 100 KSA ASSESSMENT BEFORE FINAL EXAMINATION***

*Before being recommended by an ATO to sit the final examination paper at the first attempt, an applicant for a professional licence should have successfully completed the applicable Area 100 KSA summative assessments and mental maths test at the ATO.<sup>4</sup>*

ATOs shall put processes in place to ensure that candidates are not forwarded to sit the final examination paper at first attempt without completion of a successful applicable Area 100 KSA summative assessments and mental maths test at the ATO.

**SUMMARY**

New candidates for theoretical examination may only apply for examinations under the format detailed in EDs 2018/001/R, 2018/011/R and 2019/017/R.

Existing candidates who have already undertaken and passed examinations in the current format may continue to sit examinations in that format.

ATOs shall put processes in place to ensure that candidates are not forwarded to sit the final examination at first attempt without completion of a successful applicable Area 100 KSA summative assessments and mental maths test at the ATO.

**LINKS TO THE EDs**

- [ED 2018/001/R](#)
- [ED 2018/011/R](#)
- [ED 2019/017/R](#)

<sup>4</sup> Annex I to ED Decision 2018/001/R