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GENERAL

REVIEWED AND REVISED NPL EXAM SYSTEM

Effective date: 05 August 2016

Background:

RAASA has received a number of reports from concerned instructors and learner pilots in that some examination questions on the NPL exam database were not clear to the point that more than one answer could be regarded as correct for a given question, and that some questions may be irrelevant.

RAASA investigated these reports, and called a workshop to consult senior instructors in order to review the examinations and questions. 30 senior instructors attended the meeting held on 29th January 2016 at the RAASA offices.

Finding:

At this meeting, it was pointed out that one answer per question throughout each respective examination paper was indeed correct, but that more work will be done to confirm the relevance of questions asked, as well as the way in which questions are posed.

Further, RAASA contacted a number of learner pilots and ATO's to confirm their progress and to enquire whether students were provided with the required, appropriate and adequate theoretical instruction. Early indicators suggested those who did receive the appropriate theoretical ground school have achieved good pass rates, whereas those that did not receive proper or any theoretical trainings often failed the examinations repeatedly.

The Regulation regarding training in Part 62 refers to the applicable technical standards, which in turn refers to the applicable Appendices of each category of training towards obtaining a NPL, these clearly state that the student shall be trained in accordance with SACATS 62.04.4 which reads as follows:

Theoretical Knowledge Examinations

(1) The contents of the written theoretical knowledge examinations must be based on the theoretical training described in Appendix R62.02/R62.05/R62.07/R62.08/R62.17

The aim of the training course is to train prospective national learner pilots to the level of knowledge required to obtain a national pilots learners certificate.

Appendix R62.02&R62.05 & R62.07 & R62.08 & R62.17

HEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE COURSE: 1.

Aim of training course

1. *The aim of the course is to train a candidate to the level of proficiency required for the issue of a class and type rating for weight-shift controlled microlight aeroplanes/conventional microlight aeroplanes/gyroplanes/light sport aeroplane (as applicable), and to provide the training necessary to act as pilot-in-command of any light sport aeroplane for which he or she holds a valid type rating, engaged in non- revenue flights under visual flight rules.*

Implementation:

RAASA has taken note of certain comments about the relevance of questions and accordingly RAASA reviewed the entire exam database of questions and reference material used.

Only a small number of questions where relevance was questionable were replaced with clear relevant questions.

RAASA has implemented the system review and the revised system will be effective no later than 30 August 2016.

In light of the above RAASA will no longer accredit exams centres to conduct and invigilate examinations where the school does not provide the student with theoretical training. The purpose of RAASA accrediting an ATO to host an exam centre on behalf of RAASA is for the convenience of students. ATO's that do not provide students with theoretical training therefore do not require to host an exam centre, as the student will have to complete his or her theoretical training at another school in order to fulfil the requirements of the SA-CATS as stated above.

This does not affect the approval given to any ATO's for the purpose of practical flight training.