

January 7, 2010

Mr. Craig Fuller
President & CEO
AOPA

Ms. Karen Gebhart
President
AOPA Foundation

Mr. Bruce Landsberg
President
AOPA Air Safety Foundation

Dear Craig, Karen, and Bruce,

Leaders of the aviation community who attended the Industry meeting in September 2009 learned that the Federal Aviation Administration is currently transitioning the guidance of the Airman Knowledge Testing (AKT) Program from FAA Order 8080.6E to that of Order 8100.15 Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) and FAA Order 8080.6F. A result of this transition from Computer Test Designee (CTD) to an ODA requires both CATS and LaserGrade to establish and enforce strict new standards around the AKT Program and the sites that are authorized to participate in it.

With the FAA's permission CATS and LaserGrade have been diligently working together to develop common standards of testing that meet the new requirements and will be implemented at all Testing Centers throughout the aviation industry in 2010. Please be aware that CATS and LaserGrade will continue to operate as independent companies; however the Order's scope and need for procedural consistency makes it necessary for us to co-operate on the design and implementation of the new programs.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the general aviation public of the upcoming changes and to highlight the benefits these bring. It is the belief of the FAA, CATS and LaserGrade that these new procedures greatly enhance the safety and security of both the aviation community and the general public. The aviation industry is faced with an environment that makes it vital that the ODA holders enhance their methods of enforcing their primary responsibilities; security, education, training and compliance.

More specifics will be provided as the new processes are established but some general highlights include the following:

- Heightened supervision of sites and the staff that operate them
- New FAA Certified Training Programs
- New education tools for the testing community

- Enhanced Internal Inspection Programs conducted by both the FAA and the ODA holders

As a result of the stringent requirements identified in the new Order, an ODA Compliance (ODAC) Fee will be charged for each exam effective April 1, 2010. Our estimation is that the compliance fee will be \$50.00 per exam and that part of these proceeds will be returned to the aviation community through a fee sharing arrangement with the sites. These proceeds will help ensure that both the ODA and the sites are able to fully meet their responsibilities and obligations under the Order. The fee is separate from and in addition to the price of the test.

Please be assured that the need for the new fee was only agreed upon after a thorough analysis and understanding of the new Order's requirements and will be revisited after the implementation phase of the project is completed. We hope you agree that these changes are closely aligned with AOPA's mission statement in promoting awareness and safety for its constituents and community and we're respectfully asking for your cooperation and support in disseminating this information in a positive manner. We'll be working closely with our sites to ensure a smooth transition over the coming months. A separate communication is being sent to the test centers by their respective CTD.

Thank you for your time and anticipated support over the next year as the Order takes full effect. The Airman Knowledge Test Program will be greatly enhanced by the successful implementation of the ODA.

Sincerely,




Geraldine Celestre
President & CEO
Computer Assisted Testing Service, Inc. (CATS)
Comira




Stephen Tapp
President & CEO
LaserGrade Inc