



## USDA Forest Service Interagency Aviation Training Guide Appendix 1 - Forest Service Requirements



**This is to clarify requirements for Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) for the Forest Service. This appendix is to address agency specific requirements in the IAT Guide. Additional guidance to the IAT GUIDE for the Forest Service is underlined in blue text below.**

IAT is primarily designed to establish minimum training, skills, knowledge, and currency requirements for agency personnel who work with aircraft or have aviation duties in order to accomplish resource (non-fire) missions.

**Interagency Aviation Training does not replace National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) training requirements. Individuals qualified in fire positions under NWCG PMS 310-1 are not required to take duplicate training under IAT, unless specified by NWCG. Individuals holding a current certification under the Incident Qualification and Certification System (a performance based system) are also qualified to perform equivalent non-fire/resource aviation project positions under IAT guidelines and do not require additional IAT identified training.**

### Agency Certification

Two levels of training have been identified. The first level, “required training,” is mandatory as specified for each aviation position. Modules in the second level, “additional requirements,” will be specified by individual DOI bureau/Forest Service policy. The Forest Service has no additional requirements at this time.

Forest Service and DOI bureau aviation managers are authorized to initially certify (FSM 5720, 4/2009). Currency will be maintained under the IAT program. Forest/Unit Aviation Officers will recommend initial certification to the local line officer for unit level approval. See Example crosswalk chart, last page.

## Aviation Positions

These positions require a level of specific skills and knowledge to perform aviation duties and ensure safety. Personnel should be assigned only to positions in which they have been successfully trained. It is up to the Forest Service Line Officer and each DOI bureau to determine positions based on organizational needs and mission objectives.

[Training requirements and currency for the following positions can be found in the IAT Guide which is on the IAT Home page @ \[www.iat.gov\]\(http://www.iat.gov\).](#)

1. Aircrew Member
2. Aviation Dispatcher
3. Aviation Manager
4. Fixed-Wing Flight Manager
5. Fixed-Wing Flight Manager - Special Use
6. Helicopter Flight Manager
7. Helicopter Manager - Resource
8. Project Aviation Manager
9. Supervisor

**Aircrew Member** - Person working in and around aircraft and is essential to ensure the safety and successful outcome of the mission. Aircrew members are required to either be on board or attend to the loading and unloading of passengers and cargo at all landings and takeoffs, and to ensure that passengers have received a safety briefing prior to all non-point-to-point missions. [Positions include but are not limited to: resource specialist on aerial reconnaissance mission, spotter, law enforcement, and IR technician. This person may function under the direction of the fixed-wing flight manager or helicopter manager.](#)

**Fixed-Wing Flight Manager (FWFM)** –A Government representative who works jointly with the pilot-in-command and aircrew members to ensure safe, efficient flight management on point-to-point (aviation operations between any two geographical locations operationally suited for take-off and landing i.e. airport to airport) flights. This position does not include special-use operations. Ref. FSH 5709.16 Ch 30, 31.22, 4/2009.

**Fixed-Wing Flight Manager – Special Use** - Government representative who works jointly with the pilot-in-command and aircrew members to ensure safe, efficient flight management of missions other than point-to-point flying, i.e infrared, aerial survey, aerial photo, [sketch mapping, landing at backcountry airstrips \(except Alaska\)](#), reconnaissance below 500 feet and other missions requiring special training and/or equipment.

**Helicopter Flight Manager** - Individual who supervises missions such as transport of personnel from one developed heliport/airport to another developed helicopter/airport, low- and high-level reconnaissance, and landings or takeoffs at unimproved landing sites. [Due to the high frequency of mishaps during take off & landing at unimproved sites,](#)

**Forest Service will only use this position with a qualified helicopter manager overseeing operations.**

**Helicopter Manager Resource** - Responsible for coordinating, scheduling, managing, and supervising non-fire resource helicopter operations. Fire helicopter manager training and experience requirements are found in the PMS 310-1 and specific agency and bureau policies. Qualified Fire Helicopter Managers under PMS 310-1 are qualified as Helicopter Manager Resource. Forest Service will require a Task Book for Helicopter Manager Resource. Task book is currently under development. Until available use the NWCG task book PMS 311-13, June 2009 and document resource assignments in the place of a fire assignment. A Helicopter Manager (Resource or Fire) is required for all Forest Service Helicopter operations.

**Supervisor** - Those who supervise employees who use aircraft to accomplish agency programs (first-and second-line supervisors as determined by the agency). Forest Service positions include: Unit Aviation Officers who directly supervise aviation operations; group leaders and managers who supervise employees who conduct aerial surveys, photo missions, snow surveys, avalanche control, aerial spraying, law enforcement operations, and specialized aviation operations which includes utilization of backcountry airstrips.

**Forest Service Instructor Qualification Process:**

**A-220 Train-The-Trainer.** Interagency aviation trainer (IAT) qualification. This 32-hour course is designed to provide training to select employees with aviation and training backgrounds to qualify them as IATs. Once qualified, these trainers will have the capability to present the 100 & 200 level courses in the IAT curriculum. Emphasis is on increasing program knowledge and enhancing presentation skills. Prior attendance at an instructor's training course is strongly encouraged. Requires attendance (**FS on-line**) at a B-3 class (A-101, A-105, A-106, A-108, A-113) within the past 12 months.

**A-221 Advanced Trainer Competency.** This course is designed to provide master trainers the opportunity for certification as an interagency aviation trainer (IAT) by demonstrating their skills in delivery, subject matter expertise, needs analysis, and evaluation in compliance with IAT competency and performance training standards as they relate to basic aviation courses. Attendance at this course is limited to instructors who have previously completed a 40-hour instructor course: M-410 Facilitative instructor, Fire Instructor I, or the equivalent. This is an 8 hour course that will familiarize instructors with interagency policy and administration of the IAT website for instructors. Once Instructors pass evaluation they will be able to instruct A100 & A-200 level courses.

**A-222 Interagency Aviation Trainer Currency.** This module includes (1) policy updates relevant to interagency aviation trainers and (2) training techniques IATs can use to sharpen their instructor skills. Trainers are required to take this module every 3 years after qualifying as an IAT. Forest Service does not endorse this requirement. We will provide instructors with policy changes through e-mail notifications.

To maintain currency Instructors must provide training and document that training through the IAT data base at least every three years.

After an instructor has completed the IAT Instructor training (A-220 or A-221), contact the National Aviation Training Specialist to schedule initial evaluation and certification.

When a request is received the National Aviation Training Specialist will provide an administrative reviewer. The administrator will review the instructor and complete the *Presentation Evaluation for IAT Trainers* form and forward to the National Aviation Training Specialist.

Upon receiving a satisfactory recommendation, the National Aviation Training Specialist will provide instructor access to the IAT Instructor database. Contact the National Aviation Training Specialist at 208-387-5737.

## Crosswalk Charts

### Position Equivalencies

NWCG/ FSH 5109.17 Qualifications	IAT Resource Qualifications
HECM	Aircrew Member
ACDP	Aircraft Dispatcher
AOBD, ASGS, ATGS	Aviation Manager
AOBD, ASGS, ATGS, HLCO	Fixed-Wing Flight Manager –Special Use
HMGB	Helicopter Manager-Resource
AOBD, ASGS, HEB1/2	Project Aviation Manager
AOBD	Supervisor

The positions listed in the NWCG/ FSH 5109.17 Qualifications column will crosswalk into the non-fire IAT Resource Qualifications.

If individuals do not meet the NWCG/FSH 5109.17 qualifications (above), they shall follow the training requirements found in the Interagency Aviation Training Guide in order to conduct/oversee non-fire resource aviation operations.