



**NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP**  
**NIAC-Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee**

**NIAC-22-04 / IASS-22-02**

**Date:** 08 August 2022

**To:** John Buehler, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)

**From:** Walter Bunt, Chair NIAC-Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee

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WALTER BUNT  
Date: 2022.08.17  
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**Subject:** Aerial Supervision Training Standardization.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a recommended change to the NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1, Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO) position training requirements.

**Background:** Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO) position is a key team member in airspace management assisting with the implementation of a safe, effective and efficient aerial firefighting operation. In 2019 the NWCG, IASS committee established the HLCO Working Group that is made of interagency subject matter experts. During their monthly meetings and assigned committee work they have reviewed the PMS 310-1 and identified areas that need improvement and that when implemented will protect the standards that are taught in the S-378 Aerial Supervision Academies. It is also recommended that the HLCO position is missing credit for currency of prerequisite knowledge skills and abilities of our workforce.

**Recommendation:** Change the PMS 310-1 HLCO Qualifications Requirement Page to reflect the following:

**Required Training**

- RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR)
- S-378, Aerial Supervision
- CRM, Agency Approved Crew Resource Management Training
- RT-378, Air Tactical Group Supervisor Refresher, (Triennial)

**Physical Fitness Level: None Required**

- Position does not require a physical fitness level.

**Required Experience**

- Satisfactory performance as a Task Force Leader (TFLD)
- AND Completion and Certification of NWCG Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO) Position Task Book, PMS 311-18

OR

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.

- Satisfactory performance in one Strike Team Leader position (STCR, STEQ, STEN)
- AND Completion and Certification of NWCG Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO) Position Task Book, PMS 311-18

### These Positions Maintain Currency For HLCO

- Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS)

### HLCO Maintains Currency for These Positions

- Helicopter Manager, Single Resource (HMGB)
- Taskforce Leader (TFLD)
- Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN)
- Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR)
- Strike Team Leader Equipment (STEQ)

### Other Training Which Supports Development of Knowledge and Skills

- Load Calculation Overview.
- S-271, Helicopter Crew Member.
- S-372, Helicopter Manager.
- S-371, Helibase Manager.

### NIAC Decision

Approved: JOHN BUEHLER

Denied:

Digitally signed by JOHN BUEHLER  
Date: 2022.09.14 09:29:26 -06'00'

**Contact:** Please direct questions to IASS-Chair, Walter Bunt at 208-387-5327 or [walter.bunt@usda.gov](mailto:walter.bunt@usda.gov).

**Reference:** Red font identifies proposed changes to PMS 310-1, see NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision, PMS 505, Chapter 2, page 31, and NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1 HLCO position.

**Distribution:** NWCG, NIAC and All NIAC Subcommittees.