

**National Wildfire Coordinating Group  
Operations and Workforce Development Committee**

---

09/23/2013

To: NWCG Committee Chairs and Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs  
From: Mark Jones, Chair, Operations and Workforce Development Committee  
Subject: Additional requirements for the ATGS Position Qualifications

In December 2012 the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) approved the 2013 version of the *Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide* (IASG). Within this Guide changes were made to the Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) training and qualification requirements; these changes were proposed via the ATGS cadre and the Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee (IASS). The need for the change was determined through analysis of Aviation Mishap Review Board (AMRB) recommendations, Interagency Aviation Safety Alerts, SAFECOMS, the Forest Service Safety Impact Analysis for Aerial Supervision Operations and the observed performance of ATGS's on incidents.

Changes include:

- 1) Adding mandatory agency approved Crew Resource Management (CRM) training as required training for the ATGS position.
- 2) Requiring recurrence training (RT-378) every three years to maintain currency for ATGS.

The Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) has approved amending the ATGS position in the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1. Amendment of the position in the PMS 310-1 will ensure established standards of performance are maintained across all agencies and geographic areas.

**Qualification and Training Standards for the ATGS Position:**

**Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS)**  
(Position Category: ICS)

**REQUIRED TRAINING**

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130)  
Triennial ATGS Refresher Training (RT-378)  
Aerial Supervision (S-378)  
Agency Approved CRM Training

**REQUIRED EXPERIENCE**

Satisfactory performance as a Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)  
+  
Successful position performance as an Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) on a wildfire

OR

Satisfactory performance as an Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3)  
+  
Successful position performance as an Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) on a wildfire

**PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL**

None required

**THESE POSITIONS MAINTAIN CURRENCY FOR ATGS**

None

**ATGS MAINTAINS CURRENCY FOR THESE POSITIONS**

Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)  
Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO)  
Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4)

**OTHER TRAINING WHICH SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

National Aerial Firefighting Academy (NAFA)

## Transition Plan

**Effective Date:** These requirements will be enforced in IQCS concurrent with the release of the October 2013 PMS 310-1.

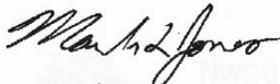
**Current Trainees:** There is no change to the position task book. Trainees will be required to attend agency approved CRM training and adhere to the updated currency and refresher requirements.

**Currently Qualified ATGS:** ATGS's are historically recognized and will follow the new currency requirements as of the transition date.

To minimize the impact on the field in implementing these requirements, the process of historical recognition for the ATGS position will be used for all responders qualified as ATGS at the time of the release of the October 2013 PMS 310-1:

- Responders qualified as ATGS will remain qualified even if they have not completed all of the new training requirements; competencies for required courses will be automatically awarded in IQCS for fully-qualified responders. Responders that are fully-qualified after October, 2013 will be required to meet recurrency training requirements.
- Trainee responders (at the time of the 2013 release of the PMS 310-1) and future trainees will be required to complete the position requirements before being considered qualified.

Please direct questions to Brad Gibbs (NIAC Liaison to OWDC) (208) 387-5182 or [bgibbs@blm.gov](mailto:bgibbs@blm.gov)



Mark L Jones

Chair, Operations and Workforce Development Committee

cc: Operations and Workforce Development Committee