FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (WO)
WASHINGTON, DC

FSH 5109.17 - FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT
QUALIFICATIONS HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 30 - EQUIVALENCY COURSES

Amendment No.: 5109.17-2002-5

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Approved: ROBIN L. THOMPSON
Associate Deputy Chief
for State and Private Forestry

Date Approved: 03/20/2002

Posting Instructions: Amendments are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document; remove the entire document and replace it with this amendment. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last amendment to this Handbook was 5109.17-2002-4 to 5109.17_25.17-25.36.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>New Document</th>
<th>5109.17_30</th>
<th>5 Pages</th>
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Digest:

30 - Adds a new chapter for direction on equivalency courses.

31 - Adds direction regarding equivalency courses that have been approved by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Training Working Team as being equivalent to those identified in the NWCG curriculum. Exhibit 01 contains a list of the approved equivalency courses correlated to the courses in the approved NWCG curriculum.
Table of Contents

31 - APPROVED EQUIVALENCY COURSES .................................................................3
31 - APPROVED EQUIVALENCY COURSES

As set out in section 22.3, the Forest Service has identified a process for evaluating a course for National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) course equivalency. Following evaluation by a Regionally appointed equivalency course Evaluation Team, findings and recommendations are submitted to the NWCG Training Working Team for consideration and approval as equivalency courses.

The NWCG Training Working Team has determined the courses listed in exhibit 01 to be equivalent to the identified NWCG course. Persons who have successfully completed the identified equivalency course do not need to attend the NWCG course.

31 - Exhibit 01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NWCG Approved Curriculum</th>
<th>Approved Equivalency Course(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitative Instructor (M-410)</td>
<td>NFPA Instructor 1a and 1b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Fire Effects (RX-310)</td>
<td>Successful Completion of Technical Fire Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Suppression Tactics (S-336)</td>
<td>Successful Completion of: Single Resource Boss (S-230, 1996 Version or later) AND Fire Operations in the Urban Interface (S-215) OR Task Force/Strike Team Leader (S-330) AND Fire Operations in the Urban Interface (S-215)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisory Concepts and Techniques (S-281)</td>
<td>Forest Service Corporate Training Practical Leadership Skills for New First-Line Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership and Organizational Development (S-301)</td>
<td>Fireline Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-580 Advanced Fire Use Applications</td>
<td>Managing Wildland Fire for Resource Benefits (offered in Region 1). Equivalent for Fire Use Manager 2 only.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interagency Aviation Management and Safety (IAMS)

Aircraft Conference and Education (ACE). The following modules meet the IAMS equivalent for identified positions:

**Supervisory Dispatcher (EDSP):**
- A-101 Basic Aviation Safety
- A-104 Aircraft Capabilities and Limitations
- A-106 Aviation Mishap Reporting
- A-107 Aviation Policy and Regulations I
- A-109 Aviation Radio Use
- A-112 Mission Planning and Flight Request Process
- A-202 Interagency Aviation Organizations
- A-203 Airspace Management and Coordination
- A-206 Aviation Acquisition/Procurement I
- A-207 Aircraft Dispatching
- A-302 Personal Responsibility and Liability
- A-303 Human Factors in Aviation
- A-305 Risk Management
- A-307 Aviation Policy and Regulations II

**Helicopter Manager:**
- A-101 Aviation Safety
- A-103 Helicopter Safety
- A-104 Overview of Aircraft Capabilities and Limitations
- A-105 Aviation Life Support and Equipment
- A-106 Aviation Mishap Reporting
- A-107 Aviation Policy and Regulations I
- A-108 Pre-Flight Checklist and Briefing/Debriefing
- A-111 Flight Payment Document
- A-112 Mission Planning and Flight Request Process
- A-113 Crash Survival
- A-201 Overview of Safety and Accident Prevention
- A-205 Risk Awareness
- A-206 Aviation Acquisition/Procurement I
- A-209 Helicopter Operations
- A-302 Personal Responsibility and Liability
- A-307 Aviation Policy and Regulations II
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NWCG Approved Curriculum</th>
<th>Approved Equivalency Course(s)</th>
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<td>Interagency Aviation Management and Safety (IAMS)</td>
<td>Aircraft Conference and Education (ACE). The following modules meet the IAMS equivalent for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>identified positions:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD), Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS), Air Tanker Base</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manager (ATBM), Air Support Group Supervisor (ASGS), Air Tanker/Fixed Wing Coordinator (ATCO),</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ramp Management (RAMP), and Fixed Wing Base Manager (FWBM):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-101 Aviation Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-102 Fixed Wing Safety</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A-103 Helicopter Safety</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A-105 Aviation Life Support Equipment</td>
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<td>A-106 Aviation Mishap Reporting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-201 Overview of Safety and Accident Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-202 Interagency Aviation Organizations</td>
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<tr>
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<td>A-203 Airspace Management and Coordination</td>
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<td>A-204 Aircraft Capabilities and Limitations</td>
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<td>A-206 Aviation Acquisition/Procurement I</td>
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<td>A-211 Aviation Planning</td>
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<td>A-301 Implementing Aviation Safety and Accident Prevention</td>
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<td>A-303 Human Factors in Aviation</td>
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<td>A-305 Risk Management</td>
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CHAPTER 40 - FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT POSITION COMPETENCIES

Amendment No.: 5109.17-2002-6

Effective Date: May 21, 2002

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Approved: ROBIN L. THOMPSON
Associate Deputy Chief
for State and Private Forestry

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Digest:

40 - Adds a new Chapter 40, Fire and Aviation Position Competencies.

41 - 41.2 - Adds direction on position competencies in Fire and Aviation Management required by the Forest Service. The exhibits set out specific competencies for Hotshot positions (sec. 41.1) and Exclusive Use Fire Helicopter positions (sec. 41.2).
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  41.1 - Hotshot Position Competencies ................................................................. 3
  41.2 - Exclusive Use Fire Helicopter Position Competencies .............................. 8
41 - FIRE AND AVIATION POSITION COMPETENCIES

The Federal Fire and Aviation Leadership Council has developed the Interagency Fire Program Management Qualifications Standards and Guide, which contains minimum qualification standards for fire and aviation management positions. The Forest Service has determined the following competencies are required to reach full performance in each associated position listed in sections 41.1 and 41.2.

41.1 - Hotshot Position Competencies

41.1 - Exhibit 01

HOTSHOT SUPERINTENDENT

TRAINING: None

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE:
Task Force Leader
AND
Incident Commander Type 4
AND
Ignition Specialist Type 2

PHYSICAL FITNESS: Arduous

*Desired fitness goals also include completing:
1.5-mile run in a time of 10:35 or less
AND
Forty sit-ups in sixty seconds
AND
Twenty-five push-ups in sixty seconds
AND
Four chin-ups (>170 lbs. body weight)
Five chin-ups (135-170 lbs. body weight)
Six chin-ups (110-134 lbs. body weight)
Seven chin-ups (<110 lbs. body weight)

* Contained in the National Interagency Hotshot Operations Guide. These fitness goals are desired in hotshot positions; however, they are not required.
**41.1 - Exhibit 01—Continued**

**HOTSHOT ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/CAPTAIN**

**TRAINING:** None

**PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE:** Strike Team Leader (Crew)  
AND  
Incident Commander Type 4

**PHYSICAL FITNESS:** Arduous

*Desired fitness goals also include completing:  
1.5-mile run in a time of 10:35 or less  
AND  
Forty sit-ups in sixty seconds  
AND  
Twenty-five push-ups in sixty seconds  
AND  
Four chin-ups (>170 lbs. body weight)  
Five chin-ups (135-170 lbs. body weight)  
Six chin-ups (110-134 lbs. body weight)  
Seven chin-ups (<110 lbs. body weight)

* Contained in the National Interagency Hotshot Operations Guide. These fitness goals are desired in hotshot positions; however, they are not required.
41.1 - Exhibit 01—Continued

HOTSHOT SQUAD LEADER

TRAINING: None

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE: Single Resource Boss (Crew), Trainee
AND
Incident Commander Type 5

PHYSICAL FITNESS: Arduous

*Desired fitness goals also include completing:
1.5-mile run in a time of 10:35 or less
AND
Forty sit-ups in sixty seconds
AND
Twenty-five push-ups in sixty seconds
AND
Four chin-ups (>170 lbs. body weight)
Five chin-ups (135-170 lbs. body weight)
Six chin-ups (110-134 lbs. body weight)
Seven chin-ups (<110 lbs. body weight)

* Contained in the National Interagency Hotshot Operations Guide. These fitness goals are desired in hotshot positions; however, they are not required.
41.1 - Exhibit 01–Continued

HOTSHOT SENIOR FIREFIGHTER

TRAINING: None

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE: Advanced Fire Fighter/Squad Boss
AND
Incident Commander Type 5

Desirable skills which may include:
Class C Faller
OR
Emergency 1st Responder
OR
Helicopter Crewmember

PHYSICAL FITNESS: Arduous

*Desired fitness goals also include completing:
1.5-mile run in a time of 10:35 or less
AND
Forty sit-ups in sixty seconds
AND
Twenty-five push-ups in sixty seconds
AND
Four chin-ups (>170 lbs. body weight)
Five chin-ups (135-170 lbs. body weight)
Six chin-ups (110-134 lbs. body weight)
Seven chin-ups (<110 lbs. body weight)

* Contained in the National Interagency Hotshot Operations Guide. These fitness goals are desired in hotshot positions; however, they are not required.
41.1 - Exhibit 01—Continued

HOTSHOT CREWMEMBER

TRAINING: None

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE: Satisfactory position performance as a Firefighter Type 2

PHYSICAL FITNESS: Arduous

*Desired fitness goals also include completing:
  1.5-mile run in a time of 10:35 or less
  AND
  Forty sit-ups in sixty seconds
  AND
  Twenty-five push-ups in sixty seconds
  AND
  Four chin-ups (>170 lbs. body weight)
  Five chin-ups (135-170 lbs. body weight)
  Six chin-ups (110-134 lbs. body weight)
  Seven chin-ups (<110 lbs. body weight)

* Contained in the National Interagency Hotshot Operations Guide. These fitness goals are desired in hotshot positions; however, they are not required.
41.2 - Exclusive Use Fire Helicopter Position Competencies

41.2 - Exhibit 01

EXCLUSIVE-USE FIRE HELICOPTER CREW SUPERVISOR

TRAINING:

LEVEL 1  I-300 Intermediate Incident Command System

LEVEL 2  S-301 Leadership and Organizational Development

OR

Fireline Leadership

LEVEL 3  Aviation Conference and Education (ACE)

S-300 Incident Commander Extended Attack

S-378 Air Tactical Group Supervisor

S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations

CERTIFICATION:

Attendance at a Helicopter Manager Workshop every other year

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE:

Exclusive-Use Assistant Helicopter Crew Supervisor

OR

Call-when-needed Helicopter Manager AND

Helibase Manager 2 (T) AND

Experience in Aviation Contract Administration AND

Satisfactory performance as an exclusive use Helicopter Crewmember

PHYSICAL FITNESS:

Arduous
41.2 - Exhibit 01—Continued

EXCLUSIVE-USE ASSISTANT FIRE HELICOPTER CREW SUPERVISOR

TRAINING:

**LEVEL 1**
- S-371 Helibase Manager
  - *S-372 Interagency Helicopter Manager*

**LEVEL 2**
- S-281 Supervisory Concepts and Techniques
  - OR
    - Forest Service Corporate Training
      - Practical Leadership Skills for New First-Line Supervisors

**LEVEL 3**
- Regional Aviation Contract Administration Aviation Conference and Education (ACE)
- I-300 Intermediate Incident Command System
- S-301 Leadership and Organizational Development
  - OR
    - Fireline Leadership

CERTIFICATION:
- Attendance at a Helicopter Manager Workshop every other year

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE:
- Incident Commander Type 4
  - AND
- Satisfactory position performance as a Helicopter Manager
  - AND
- Experience in Aviation Contract Administration

PHYSICAL FITNESS:
- Arduous

*S-372 Interagency Helicopter Manager is in the initial states of course development. Anticipated release of the course materials will be in 2003 or 2004.*
41.2 - Exhibit 01—Continued

EXCLUSIVE-USE FIRE HELICOPTER SQUAD LEADER

TRAINING:

**LEVEL 1**  
S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use

**LEVEL 3**  
Regional Aviation Contract Administration  
I-200 Basic Incident Command System  
S-200 Initial Attack Incident Commander  
S-215 Fire Operations In The Urban Interface  
S-230 Crew Boss  
S-234 Ignition Operations  
S-260 Interagency Incident Business Management  
S-270 Basic Air Operations  
S-371 Helibase Manager

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE:

Advanced Fire Fighter/Squad Boss  
**AND**  
Helicopter Crewmember  
**AND**  
Incident Commander Type 5  
**AND**  
Desired experience in Contract Administration

PHYSICAL FITNESS:

Arduous
### 41.2 - Exhibit 01—Continued

**EXCLUSIVE-USE FIRE HELICOPTER CREWMEMBER**

**TRAINING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Course Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEVEL 1</strong></td>
<td>S-271 Interagency Helicopter Training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **LEVEL 3** | S-131 Advanced Firefighter  
S-133 Look Up, Look Down, Look Around  
S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use  
S-212 Wildfire Power Saws  
S-281 Supervisory Concepts and Techniques  
**OR**  
Forest Service Corporate Training  
Practical Leadership Skills for New First-Line Supervisors |

**PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE:**

- Firefighter Type 2  
- AND  
- Satisfactory position performance as a Helicopter Crewmember

**PHYSICAL FITNESS:**

- Arduous