

EASA License AML Cat. A3 | Aircraft maintenance technician

Aircraft maintenance technician

EASA AML Cat. A licenses are regulated at the European level and are therefore accepted across national borders. However, no aircraft types are entered on the aircraft maintenance license. The maintenance company trains the aircraft maintenance technician in specific tasks and certifies him accordingly.

AML Cat. A license categories

Aircraft maintenance technicians obtain a different license depending on the field of application:

Cat. A1

Aeroplanes with turbine engines

Cat. A2

Aeroplanes with piston engines

Cat. A3

Helicopters with turbine engines

Cat. A4

Helicopters with piston engines

Main activities

License holders in category A carry out specific maintenance work on the apron or in the hangar, rectify defects on the aircraft and **sign off the work they have carried out for which they are authorised.**

The following work is typical maintenance work for category A:

Service

Lubrication, oiling, etc.

Inspections

Visual checks of the structure, components, etc.

Testing

Use of external and built-in test equipment/diagnostic tools

Troubleshooting

Simple troubleshooting

Repairs

Carrying out minor repairs

Modifications

Assisting in the implementation of modifications to the aircraft

Component replacement

Replacement of faulty components



Education

Training as a lateral entry after completing a technical apprenticeship is possible at any time, as well as a conversion of an existing license.

Lateral entry graduates have the following three training options:

Experience

Proof of three (3) years of aircraft maintenance experience and EASA module examinations.

Skilled workers

Proof of two (2) years of aircraft maintenance experience and recognised professional training ([Link](#)) as well as EASA module examinations.

Official training course

800-hour training course (theory and practice) and proof of one (1) year of aircraft maintenance experience.

Theoretical knowledge

Besides the 800-hour programme, you can acquire the necessary skills as follows:

Self-study

Get training materials, study, study some more, pass the exams.

Classroom training

Traditional classroom teaching.

Important:

The training expires after 10 years if no licence application is submitted during this period.

The theoretical knowledge is provided by means of the following **EASA modules** (see next page).

- All modules for the respective licence category are shown, as well as the number of examination questions per module.
- The essays mentioned in Module 7 «Maintenance Practices» are additional text tasks on a related question.
- All other examination questions are «multiple choice» tasks.



Module	Aeroplane		Helicopter		No of exam questions
	Cat A1 Turbine engine	Cat A2 Piston engine	Cat A3 Turbine engine	Cat A4 Piston engine	
1 Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓	16
2 Physics	✓	✓	✓	✓	32
3 Electrical Fundamentals	✓	✓	✓	✓	20
4 Electronic Fundamentals	--	--	--	--	--
5 Digital Techniques / Electronic Instrument Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓	20
6 Material & Hardware	✓	✓	✓	✓	52
7 Maintenance Practices	✓	✓	✓	✓	76 2 Essays
8 Basic Aerodynamics	✓	✓	✓	✓	24
9 Human Factors	✓	✓	✓	✓	28
10 Aviation Legislation	✓	✓	✓	✓	32
11 Aeroplane Aerodynamics, Structures and Systems	✓	✓	--	--	--
12 Helicopter Aerodynamics, Structures and Systems	--	--	✓	✓	100
13 Aircraft Aerodynamics, Structures and Systems	--	--	--	--	--
14 Propulsion	--	--	--	--	--
15 Gas Turbine Engine	✓	--	✓	--	60
16 Piston Engine	--	✓	--	✓	--
17 Propeller	✓	✓	--	--	--



Practical knowledge

Aircraft maintenance technicians work in certified maintenance companies to get the practical experience they need.

Language skills

Generally, it is required that the language of the official aircraft documentation can be spoken and written. This is usually **English** and at a level comparable to the «Cambridge First Certificate» (B2).

Financial support

Aircraft maintenance staff, such as Cat. A license-holders, have the opportunity to receive subsidies. The corresponding application must be submitted to the Federal Office of Civil Aviation **before the start of training.** [Link](#)

Obtaining a license

The licence can be applied for at the responsible Federal Aviation Office after the theoretical training and proof of the practical experience gained. In Switzerland, this is the **FOCA.** [Link](#)

- The minimum age for a Cat A license is 18 years. The licence application is made using FOCA **Form 19.**
- The minimum age for a release authorisation for self-performed maintenance work is 21 years and is the responsibility of the maintenance organisation.
- An extension of the license is possible but requires additional training.

Important:

A Cat. A license is valid for 5 years and must be renewed at the responsible Federal Office of Civil Aviation.

Further education

Aircraft maintenance technicians are specialists who are eligible for the following further education programmes:

- A next higher EASA license, for example an AML Cat. B1.3, B2 or B3 [\(see factsheet\)](#)
- Swiss Federal Diploma (Aircraft technician in mechanics / avionics) [Link](#)
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering Technician HF, specialising in aircraft technology [Link](#)
- ZHAW Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in Aviation and Engineering [Link](#)

