

Color Vision Screening Steps

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025: Approved computer-based color vision screening tests will be required for pilot exams performed on 01/01/2025 and after:

- Testing frequency will change to a one-time color vision deficiency screening.
- Testing for acquired color deficiency (e.g., due to a medical condition or a medication) will be listed under the Evaluation Data of the corresponding section in the AME Guide or in the Letter of Authorization.

A. For a Returning Pilot Who Historically Passed Any Previously FAA-Approved Color Vision Test:

- For all classes: Computer-based color vision screening test is NOT required.
- Mark Item 52. "PASS"
- AME should ISSUE (if otherwise qualified).

B. For a Returning Pilot with a Previous SODA OR LOE:

1. Pilot holds 3rd Class SODA or LOE:

- **Wants to keep 3rd Class:**
 - Does not need computer test.
 - Issue 3rd class certificate with no color vision limitation (if otherwise qualified).
- **Wants to upgrade to 1st or 2nd Class:**
 - Administer any of the acceptable computer-based color vision screening tests.
 - If PASS - no limitation required. AME can issue (if otherwise qualified).
 - If FAIL - issue a 3rd class medical certificate with limitation #104 "Valid for day visual flight rules (VFR) only." If the individual requests an upgrade to 1st or 2nd class, they should appeal to the Federal Air Surgeon.

2. Pilot holds a 1st or 2nd class LOE or SODA (previously passed OCVT and CV MFT):

- Does not need computer test.
- Issue 1st or 2nd class medical certificate (if otherwise qualified).
- No color vision limitation required.

C. For a First-time Applicant:

1. An applicant can attempt any (or all) of the tests that are approved at the time of the exam.
2. **If unable to pass ANY of the acceptable tests:**
 - Mark Item 52. “Fail”
 - Annotate Item 59. (Other Tests Given) with “FAILED _____.”
 - LIST NAME of color vision test(s) attempted AND include the scores. ISSUE a 3rd Class medical certificate (if otherwise qualified). Add limitation #104 “Valid for day visual flight rules (VFR) only.” If the individual requests an upgrade to 1st or 2nd class, they should appeal to the Federal Air Surgeon.
 - Upload the computer-generated score report as “Eye-Color Vision Test Results.”
3. **If the AME does not have one of the approved computer-based tests:**
 - If the AME does not have an acceptable color vision test, they can issue a 3rd class medical certification with limitation #104. Do not defer.
 - Alternately, the applicant can be tested at a different location: The testing physician/clinic must provide the AME with the color vision printout for upload into DIWS. Remember to put the name of the test taken AND scores in Item 59.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The above applies for **routine** color vision screening. If the individual has a medical condition or takes a medication which could affect color vision, additional color vision testing (when required) will be listed in the AME Guide or in their Letter of Authorization.
- ANY tests not specifically listed are **NOT acceptable** methods of testing for FAA medical certificate.
- Color Vision Correcting Lens (e.g., X-Chrom) are **NOT** acceptable to the FAA as a means for correcting a pilot's color vision deficiencies.