NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

AMC Memorandum 26-002

September 30, 2026

TO: Wildland Fire Community

FROM: Matt Woodwick, Chair, Aviation Management Committee (AMC)

Matt Woodwick
Digitally signed by Matt Woodwick
Date: 2026.10.02 09:44:36 -05'00'

SUBJECT: Transition Plan for Implementing Updates to the Helicopter Manager (HMGB) Position Qualificcations

Purpose: The position qualifications requirements for HMGB have been updated. This memorandum provides transition guidance for implementing these changes. Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

Issue/Action: Through the Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) effort and reviews conducted by the Rotor Wing Subcommittee (RWSC), AMC has updated the position qualifications for HMGB as follows:

- Required Training:
  - Add L-280, Followership to Leadership
  - Add S-229, Single Resource Boss
  - Remove S-230, Crew Boss
- Other Training Which Supports Development of Knowledge and Skills:
  - Add A-200, Mishap Review
  - Add A-205, Risk Management I
  - Add A-303, Human Factors in Aviation
  - Add A-310, Overview of Crew Resource Management (DOI) or N9059, Crew Resource Management Skills (USFS)
  - Add S-112, Wildland Fire Chainsaws
  - Add S-211, Portable Pumps, and Water Use
  - Remove L-280, Followership to Leadership
  - Remove S-270, Basic Air Operations
- Changes to Other 310-1 Categories:
  - Add HMGB maintains currency for Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4)
  - Add HMGB maintains currency for Helicopter Manager, Limited Use/Restricted (HMLR)
  - Change HMGB Physical Fitness Level from Moderate to Arduous

Transition Guidance for HMGB Required Training:

- Historical recognition will be applied to all currently qualified HMGB responders. Qualified HMGB responders are not required to complete the additional L-280, Followership to

Leadership course or S-229, Single Resource Boss.

- HMGB trainees who are not fully qualified by December 31, 2026, will be required to complete the additional L-280, Followership to Leadership, and S-229, Single Resource Boss courses.
- Home unit Certifying Officials may apply NWCG alternative pathways to qualification such as the NWCG Standard of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), PMS 309 to credit prior experience and training competencies toward position certification.

These updates are effective upon publication of the January 2027 revision of the *NWCG Standards for the Wildland Fire Positions Qualifications*, PMS 310-1.

Background: Through the IPTM analysis process, AMC has approved the qualification standards for HMGB.

Contact: For additional information please contact your RWSC agency representative. The member roster can be found at https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/rotor-wing-subcommittee.

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