

Shortage of ground engineers / technicians

Amendment Proposals for PART 147 and PART 66

The mechanic shortage is an urgent subject that affects consequently the general aviation as well as the helicopter field. Resolving this situation should be a priority in order to avoid a general lack of mechanics which would be detrimental to security and economy. The GIPAG (General Aviation Manufacturer and Professional Association) and the SNEH (French Helicopter Operators Union) joined in to provide several proposals, on a short and long-term basis, to resorb this shortage.

Short term actions:

- Possibility of earning an equivalence for mechanics who possess a certification and qualification abroad with an internal evaluation
- Establishment of an equivalence for the military mechanics (from FRA 66 to PART 66)
- Enabling the holders of a PART 66 level A to deliver a CRS of level A
- Reduction of the required experience on TR (Type Rating) as it is too long and expensive for the maintenance centers

Long term actions:

- Adjust significantly the practical/theoretical mix in favor of practical to give access to a wider population
- Use more digital tools or virtual learning to vulgarize abstract notions which might be a brake for a number of students
- Set-up of the technician and ground engineer education systems in a progressive but fast full-English track to make sure that all engineers and technicians are easy English user. The consequence will be an immediate acceleration of the intra-European mobility helping tackle the shortage here and there by the fast relocation of scarce resources
- Promotion of the training
- Final evaluation in the mother tongue of the candidates to enable a better comprehension and to limit the stress of the exam
- Establishment of a fast system of re-take exam in case of failure
- Removal of the MRTE exam after succeeding a TR training in a part 147