Proposed changes

Section 1.   General

All persons who are engaged as pilots of ~~manned~~ aerospace vehicles in the practice of experimental or developmental flight testing, production flight testing, or in other flying which contributes to the advancement of flight testing techniques, aeronautical development and pilot safety shall be eligible for consideration for membership in the Society. Consideration in grading is given to professional education and experience, publications, record of aeronautical achievements, and contributions to scientific knowledge.

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Section 6.   Member

Members shall be pilots in one of the following categories:

1.   Pilots who are actively engaged and have been so engaged as pilots in the cockpit of manned aircraft for not less than one year in experimental or developmental flight testing of manned aerospace vehicles, their engines, or associated components.

2.   Pilots who, while engaged as a crew member in an experimental or developmental manned space vehicle program, have responsibility for control of the vehicle trajectory during a flight which achieves an altitude of at least 50 miles.

3.   The Membership Committee and the Board of Directors may recognize prospective members who, for reasons beyond their control such as physical disability, flight test accident, etc., do not apply while they are actively engaged in test flying.

Section 7.   Associate Member

 Associate Members shall be pilots in one of the following categories:

1. Pilots or copilots who are actively engaged in experimental or developmental flight testing as pilots in the cockpit of manned aerospace vehicles, their engines or associated components, with not less than six months' experience; or

2. Pilots who are actively engaged in production flight testing with not less than two years' experience; or

3. Pilots who are actively engaged in flying engineering evaluations, performance flights and related tests, with not less than one year of experience; or

4. (new paragraph) Pilots who are actively engaged in an experimental or developmental aerospace vehicle program as pilots of unmanned vehicles who exercise control over the vehicle's flight path and operating parameters with not less than one year's experience; or

5. Pilots actively engaged in astronaut training for not less than 12 months in an experimental or developmental space program and have completed an SETP accredited course of test pilot training.

6. The Membership Committee and the Board of Directors may recognize prospective members who, for reasons beyond their control such as physical disability, flight test accident, etc., do not apply while they are actively engaged in test flying.

7.   Pilots who are graduates of an SETP recognized test pilot school and have completed the ~~manned~~ test pilot course. If none of the other categories (paragraphs 1 through 4 above) of the requirements are met by the applicant, then under this paragraph the applicant may be granted provisional Associate Member status for a period of up to three years after graduation. If, during the three year period, the provisional member does not satisfactorily complete the full requirements under one of the above paragraphs (1 through 5), the provisional membership will be terminated.

Qualifying experience shall be pro-rated for applicants having a background in both categories two and three of this section.

Graduates of a recognized test pilot training course may be credited with up to six months' experience toward the experience requirements of categories two, three, and four of this section.

 Experience as a pilot of chase aircraft, missile control aircraft, or other test support aircraft shall not be considered as qualifying experience unless special factors justify designation of such chase, control, or support flights as experimental or developmental in nature on their own merit. Endurance testing and maintenance testing shall not be considered as qualifying experience.