ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST FOR PILOTS

Test aim

The test is designed to assess the English proficiency level of pilots, who need to meet the English language ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements.

The test aims at:

- Measuring speaking and listening skills
- Measuring candidates’ language proficiency in aviation-related environment
- Assessing the test taker’s ability to understand voice-only messages and respond to them using the required ICAO phraseology

Test background


ICAO Annex 1 – Personnel Licensing Appendix set up a 6-level language proficiency scale. Pilots are required to demonstrate Operational Level 4 language proficiency in the use of both ICAO phraseology and plain language from 2008.

Test overview

The test has five parts, during which candidates are rated in the six criteria required by ICAO: pronunciation, fluency, structure, vocabulary, comprehension, interaction.

The test consists of:

- Part 1: An informal interview on general and work-related topics
- Part 2: A discussion based on a picture with aviation contents
- Part 3: A listening comprehension task based on a flight incident
- Part 4: A radiotelephony interaction task
- Part 5: An interaction activity on non-routine situations

Duration: 25 min
Evaluation

The candidate is assessed in the six different areas of the ICAO language proficiency requirements:

- Pronunciation
- Fluency
- Structure
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Interaction

Additionally, the candidate’s competence in understanding and responding to RT messages is assessed.

The candidate is awarded a score 3, 4 or 5 for each of the six skills. To receive ICAO Level 4 rating, the candidate must demonstrate proficiency at least at Level 4 in all of the above criteria. The final level awarded is the lowest level in any of the six criteria.

Compliance with regulations

- The test is approved by the National Transport Authority in Hungary and accepted in many European countries.
- The test is fully compliant with the Commission Regulation 1178/2011 Annex I Subpart A FCL 055 on Language Proficiency and ICAO DOC 9835.
- Examiners of EPC TEP are all qualified English language teachers certified as English language assessors by the Hungarian CAA.

References

The examining staff has successfully conducted English Proficiency tests for:

- FARNAIR Hungary
- MALEV Hungarian Airlines
- WIZZAIR
- LOT Polish Airline
- SEPLA Spanish Airline Pilots’ Association

Test benefits

- Each Examiner/Assessor is a qualified English language teacher with an English language university degree in teaching English, specially trained in aviation-related subjects and widely experienced in teaching aviation English to air navigation personnel and pilots. They have several years’ experience in language testing of either general or aviation English proficiency.
- The test takes approximately 25 minutes and can be delivered either at the head office of Entry Point Central in Budapest, Entry Point North in Malmö or at client premises.