

# 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

In March 2003 the ICAO Council adopted amendments to Annex 1, Annex 6 – Operation of Aircraft, Annex 10, Annex 11 – Air Traffic Services, and the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) relating to language proficiency in international civil aviation.

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



## 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.