

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, BANGLADESH
HEAD QUARTERS. KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229

No.CAAB/1 709/32/AT/143

Date: 7/01/09

SUBJECT: LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

[English for Aviation Language - Training, Assessment, Test and Certification]

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 The introduction of aviation language proficiency by Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh is meant to ensure that flight crews and air traffic control personnel are proficient in conducting and comprehending radiotelephony communications in English language used for aviation communications between aircraft and ground stations. Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh requires the Air Navigation Service Providers and Flight Crew Personnel operating in the domestic and international civil aviation must acquire and maintain a proficiency in English in an aviation context equivalent to Level 4 (“Operational”) or higher on the Language Proficiency Rating Scales mentioned in Para 2.
- 1.2 The proficiency must be demonstrated by performance in certified test of English language for aviation purposes recognized as valid, appropriate and effective by CAAB. The Operators, Training Organizations and Air Navigation Service Providers shall provide effective and reliable language training and assessment services for aviation language training and assessment programmes to meet the language requirements of CAAB.
- 1.3 Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh requires a demonstration of language competence for the initial issue of a licence. CAAB shall conduct the Aviation Language Proficiency Test (ALPT) which will comprise of Listening comprehension, Speaking ability and Responses to different scenarios.

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2. Proficiency Level

2.1 The Level of Proficiency relating to Aviation English Language Proficiency Requirements is tabulated below:

LEVEL	<i>PRONUNCIATION</i> Assumes a dialect and/or accent intelligible to the aeronautical community	<i>STRUCTURE</i> Relevant grammatical Structure, anti sentence patterns are determined by language functions appropriate to the task	<i>VOCABULARY</i>	<i>FLUENCY</i>	<i>COMPREHENSION</i>	<i>INTERACTIONS</i>
Expert 6	Pronunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation, though possibly influenced by the first language or regional variation, almost never interfere with ease of understanding.	Both basic and complex grammatical structures and sentence patterns are consistently well controlled.	Vocabulary range and accuracy are sufficient to communicate effectively on a wide variety of familiar and unfamiliar topics. Vocabulary is idiomatic, nuanced, and sensitive to register.	Able to speak at length with a natural, effortless flow. Varies speech flow for stylistic effect, e.g. to emphasize a point. Uses appropriate discourse markers and connectors spontaneously.	Comprehension is consistently accurate in nearly all contexts and includes comprehension of linguistic and cultural subtleties	Interacts with ease in nearly all situations. Is sensitive to verbal and non-verbal cues and responds to them appropriately.
Extended 5	Pronunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation, though influenced by the first language or regional variation, rarely interfere with ease of understanding.	Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are consistently well controlled. Complex structures are attempted but with errors which sometimes interfere with meaning.	Vocabulary range and accuracy are sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics. Paraphrases consistently and successfully. Vocabulary is sometimes idiomatic,	Able to speak at length with relative ease on familiar topics but may not vary speech flow as a stylistic device. Can make use of appropriate discourse markers or connectors.	Comprehension is accurate on common, concrete, and work-related topics and mostly accurate when the speaker is confronted with a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events. Is able to comprehend a range of speech varieties (dialect and/or accent) or registers.	Responses are immediate, appropriate, and informative. Manages the speaker! listener relationship effectively
Operational 4	Pronunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation are influenced by the first language or regional variation but only sometimes interfere with ease of understanding	Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are used creatively and are usually well controlled.. Errors may occur, particularly in unusual or unexpected circumstances, but rarely interfere with meaning.	Vocabulary range and accuracy are usually sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics. Can often paraphrase successfully when lacking vocabulary in unusual or unexpected circumstances.	Produces stretches of language at an appropriate tempo. There may be occasional loss of fluency on transition from rehearsed or formulaic speech to spontaneous interaction, but this does not prevent effective communication, Can make limited use of discourse markers or connectors. Fillers are not distracting.	Comprehension is mostly accurate on common, concrete, and work-related topics when the accent or variety used is sufficiently intelligible for an international community of users, When the speaker is confronted with a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events, comprehension may be slower or require clarification strategies.	Responses are usually immediate, appropriate, and informative. Initiates and maintains exchanges even when dealing with an unexpected turn of events. Deals adequately with apparent misunderstandings by checking, confirming, or clarifying.

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1.2 Pre-operational, elementary and pre-elementary levels

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LEVEL	<i>PRONUNCIATION</i> <i>Assumes a dialect and/or accent intelligible to the aeronautical community</i>	<i>STRUCTURE</i> <i>Relevant grammatical Structure, anti sentence patterns are determined by language functions appropriate to the task</i>	VOCABULARY	FLUENCY	COMPREHENSION	INTERACTIONS
<i>Levels 4, 5 and 6 are on preceding page.</i>						
Pre-operational 3	Pronunciation, stress rhythm and intonation are influenced by the first language or regional variation and frequently interfere with ease of understanding	Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns associated with predictable situations are not always well controlled Errors frequently interfere with meaning	Vocabulary range and accuracy are often sufficient to communicate on common, concrete or work related topics but range is limited and the word choice often inappropriate. Is often unable to paraphrase successfully when lacking vocabulary.	Produces stretches of language, but phrasing and pausing are often inappropriate Hesitations or slowness in language processing may prevent effective communication Fillers are sometimes distracting.	Comprehension is often accurate on common, concrete, and work related topics when the accent or variety used is sufficiently intelligible for an international community of users May fail to understand a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events.	Responses are sometimes immediate appropriate and informative Can initiate and maintain exchanges with reasonable ease on familiar topics and in predictable situations Generally inadequate when dealing with an unexpected turn of events.
Elementary 2	Pronunciation, stress rhythm, and intonation are heavily influenced by the first language or regional variation and usually interfere with ease of understanding.	Shows only limited control of a few simple memorized grammatical structures and sentence patterns.	Limited vocabulary range consisting only of isolated words and memorized phrases	Can produce very short, isolated, memorized utterances with frequent pausing and a distracting use of fillers to search for expressions and to articulate less. familiar words.	Comprehension is limited to isolated, memorized phrases when they are carefully and slowly articulated.	Response time is slow and often inappropriate Interaction is limited to simple routine exchanges.
Pre-elementary 1	Performs at a level below the Elementary level,	Performs at a level below the Elementary level,	Performs at a level below the Elementary level,	Performs at a level below the Elementary level,	Performs at a level below the Elementary level,	Performs at a level below the Elementary level,

Note-- The Operational Level (Level 4) is the minimum required proficiency level for radiotelephony communication. Levels 1 through 3 describe Pre-Elementary, Elementary and Pre-operational levels of language proficiency respectively all of which describe a level of proficiency below the JCAO language proficiency requirement. Levels 5 and 6 describe Extended and Expert levels, at levels of proficiency more advanced than the minimum required Standard As a whole, the scale will serve as benchmarks for training and testing, and in assisting candidates to attain the ICAO Operational Level (Level 4).

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3. Requirement for Language Test:

- 3.1 The proficiency must be demonstrated by performance in certified test of English Language for aviation purposes recognized as valid, appropriate and effective by CAAB. The Operators, Training Organizations and Air Navigation Service Providers shall provide effective and reliable language training and assessment services for aviation language training and assessment programmes to meet the language requirements. Therefore, Training Organizations and Air Navigation Service Providers shall develop a comprehensive “English for Aviation Language” training programme within the organization and “English for Aviation Language Test” programme to satisfy CAAB requirement.

4. Licensing Requirements

- 4.1 A confirmation of language proficiency shall be one of the requirements for licence issue, similar to the confirmation required for age, qualification, medical fitness etc.
- 4.2 A confirmation of language proficiency shall apply to all new applicants for air traffic controller licences and to all new applicants for flight crew licences at any level (private, commercial, airline transport) and for all categories for which a licence is issued (aeroplane, helicopter and glider etc).
- 4.3 To have proficiency in English Language the applicant shall have the minimum qualification of having passed Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C) under national curriculum and/or equivalent examination with English as a compulsory subject. This qualification shall fulfill attainment of Proficiency Level-4 as per Para 2.1.

5. Assessing Language Proficiency

- 5.1 In addition to the requirements mentioned in para-4, CAAB will use an assessment process to determine the language proficiency of existing licence holders as well as for new applicants.
- 5.2 The Aviation Language Proficiency Test shall rate “Expert” “Operational” and “Below Operational” that will correspond to Level 6, 5-4 and, 3-1 respectively as mentioned in Para 2.
- 5.3 Those assessed as “Below Operational” shall not qualify for issue of flight crew or air traffic controller licence.
- 5.4 Those assessed as “Operational” shall be tested every 5 years for renewal of licence.
- 5.5 Those assessed as “Expert” shall require no further testing

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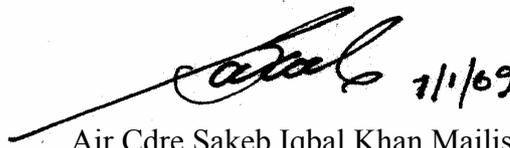
6. The Aviation Language Proficiency Test

- 6.1 Authorized Training Institutions/Organizations/Operators etc shall develop curriculum and lesson plans for the Aviation Language Proficiency that shall be approved by the Authority.
- 6.2 Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh shall have authorized examiners who will administer the Aviation Language Proficiency Test (ALPT).

7. The Test Format

- 7.1 The test will comprise proficiency assessment in speaking and listening designed to measure language proficiency in an aviation context where the Examiner will present several different scenarios and ask the candidate to respond as if he or she were part of the scenario (“role-play”). The test will consist about 15- 20 responses and will take about 20 minutes to complete.
- 7.3 The ALPT shall include assessment on:
- 5.3.1 Listening comprehension
 - 5.3.2 Speaking ability
 - 5.3.3 Responses to different scenarios.

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