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## Formal evaluation on English Language Proficiency

### 1. General

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) of which Cyprus is a contracting state establishes international standards and recommended practices (SARPS), for among other things, the licensing of aviation personnel. These SARPS which ICAO Member States are obliged to implement are published in Annex 1 –Personnel Licensing to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (ICAO Annex 1).

Applicable from 5 March 2008, ICAO introduced into ICAO Annex 1 a requirement for all pilots of airplane, helicopter, airship and powered lift aircraft, all flight navigators who use radiotelephony equipment in aircraft and all air traffic controllers, to be proficient in their command of the English language used for radio communication. A proficiency scale of 1 to 6 is specified, with Level 6 being the standard of an expert speaker of the language. ICAO Annex 1 specifies the minimum standard for the holder of a license to be Level 4.

The ICAO standards for language proficiency have been applicable in Cyprus and the other EASA Member states for some time, but the EASA Aircrew Regulation makes their application mandatory and imposes a common format for showing language proficiency on Part-FCL licenses.

For Part-FCL licenses, the language proficiency standards are set out in Part-FCL. These are equivalent to the standards already applicable in Cyprus. The ICAO Annex 1 Language Proficiency Levels are reproduced in European Regulation (EU) 1178/2011, Part-FCL.055.

### 2. Licenses Requiring Language Proficiency Endorsement

EASA Part-ARA regulation specifies that the language proficiency level and validity shall be stated on a Part-FCL license.

Therefore, pilots must hold a valid language proficiency level prior to the issue of a license. Such proficiency is required, in ENGLISH, for the issue of a Cypriot Part-FCL License.

In accordance with Part-FCL, Language proficiency must be assessed as Level 4 or higher before EASA license is issued.

Holders of National Ultralight Pilot's licenses or validations in order to be able to exercise their license privileges within Controlled Airspace in Cyprus, need to hold an ELP at least of level 4 (for further details refer to the relevant AIC).

### **3. Minimum Language Proficiency Levels**

According to Part FCL.055 the applicant for a language proficiency endorsement shall demonstrate, at least an operational level of language proficiency both in the use of phraseologies and plain language. To do so, the applicant shall demonstrate the ability to:

- a. Communicate on common and work-related topics with accuracy and clarity
- b. Communicate effectively in voice-only and in face-to-face situations
- c. Use appropriate communicative strategies to exchange messages and to recognize and resolve misunderstandings in a general or work-related context.
- d. Handle successfully the linguistic challenges presented by a complication or unexpected turn of events which occurs within the context of a routine work situation or communicative task with which they are otherwise familiar; and
- e. Speak in an accent or dialect that can be understood

Language skills will be rated on a scale 1 to 6 (as defined by ICAO) and the applicant must achieve a minimum of level 4.

If the applicant achieves level 6 he/she will not need to be re-evaluated. However, if level 4 or 5 is achieved, he/she will need to be re-evaluated as follows:

- Level 4 Operational level – every 4 years from the date of assessment
- Level 5 Extended level – every 6 years from the date of assessment

### **4. Method of Assessment of Language Proficiency**

The Department will accept an assessment of language proficiency ONLY if it is conducted by one of the following methods:

#### **4.1 ELPAC examination**

ELPAC (English Language Proficiency for Aeronautical Communication) is an ICAO English language proficiency test specifically designed for air traffic controllers and pilots and reflects the range of tasks undertaken in air traffic control and pilot communications

The ELPAC test fully meets ICAO standards and recommended practices. The fact that the test is fully recognized by ICAO for being in compliance with ICAO Doc 9835 is a testimony to the validity and integrity of ELPAC.

The ELPAC Pilot test was developed by EUROCONTROL to meet ICAO and European Commission requirements for pilots to demonstrate their proficiency in the English language in aeronautical communications with air traffic controllers and reflects the range of communication tasks undertaken in the cockpit.

The focus of the test is on language proficiency and not on operational procedures. The ELPAC Pilot test comprises of two modules:

- Module 1 Listening Comprehension
- Module 2 Oral Interaction, conducted with one of the Centre's authorized assessors

In case of failure the applicant can re-take the test at any time. In the case of second consecutive failure the applicant may re-take the test any time after a period of 3 months from the date of the second failure.

Candidates who have previously achieved level 5 are eligible to attend the examination for Level 6 any time after a period of 3 months from the date of last Level 5 successful test.

For further information and guidance for the above test refer to:

[http://elpac.eurocontrol.int/docs/ELPAC\\_pilot\\_prep.pdf](http://elpac.eurocontrol.int/docs/ELPAC_pilot_prep.pdf)

The ELPAC exam can be conducted at:

- a. DCA's Air Traffic Control Training Centre. This Training Centre is approved by Eurocontrol which is an accredited centre for ELPAC examinations, for both for Air Traffic Controllers and for Pilots, or
- b. A Training Centre approved by Eurocontrol as an accredited centre for ELPAC examinations, for Pilots. Such training centres are established in Europe and also in America, Africa and Asia.

#### **4.2 Certified Language Assessment Bodies**

Assessment Bodies that are accepted by Cyprus DCA are entities accredited by ICAO or any EASA Member's State Competent Authority to provide English Language Proficiency tests for pilots.

Applicants, who have obtained a certificate from such entities, should submit to DCA the "Certificate of Assessment" and the entity's approval certificate, indicating clearly its accreditation by ICAO or by EASA Member's State Competent Authority.

#### **4.3 National Aviation Authorities**

Assessments which were conducted by a National Aviation Authority of any ICAO contracted State will be accepted provided the applicants were issued with a "Certificate of Assessment".

The Certificate should clearly indicate, at least, the name of National Aviation Authority, the ICAO standard related to language proficiency assessment, the assessment level (as defined by relevant ICAO standard) and date of examination.

## **5. Application for the assessment at DCA's Air Traffic Control Training Centre**

- a. Assessments will be organized at the DCA Training Centre once a month. In case that the number of assessments cannot be accommodated in a single day, then a second day will be allocated in another convenient date. Applicant's should complete and submit form LIC-038, available on DCA website under Licensing/Flight Crew section, to DCA, as per submission instructions described in the form, together with the appropriate fee. Flight Crew with an ELP of Level 4 & 5 are advised to submit their applications for renewal at least two months before the expiring date, so as to have sufficient time for reapplication in case of failure.
- b. Assessments during July and August will be not be contacted. However and only for exceptional cases only, an applicant who wishes to be assessed during that period, must submit a written request to DCA providing solid justification for the request. An assessment could be contacted upon DCA Training Unit's Assessors availability. Applicants for initial ELP issue or for those that ELP is due to expire within the above period, are requested to submit their applications well before that period so that an assessment is organized in June.
- c. Candidates should be present at the examination centre with the receipt of their enrolment and photographic proof of identity, e.g. ID or Passport. Applications which are not accompanied with payment receipt shall not be considered.
- d. Applicants informed for a final examination date but will not be able to attend, should inform in writing, preferably by email to [eld@dca.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:eld@dca.mcw.gov.cy), at least ten (10) working days before the examination date. In such a case, the applicant will indicate a new preferred date for examination. No additional fees will be charged. Only one (1) cancellation request per applicant is allowed free of charge. For further cancellation(s), a new application form should be submitted together with the applicable fees.
- e. Applicants are requested to be present at DCA Training Centre's premises not earlier than 20 min. before the examination time. Applicants arriving earlier shall not be allowed to pass the main gate. Applicant who does not appear on time for the examination, without DCA's prior notification, shall be disqualified and a new application shall be submitted together with the applicable fees.

## **6. Further Information**

### **DCA Training Centre location:**

Lohagou Kapota 12, 2260  
Kokkinotrimithia,  
Nicosia

[https://www.google.gr/maps/place/Nicosia+FIR+Area+Control+Center/@35.1550037,33.2275874,1](https://www.google.gr/maps/place/Nicosia+FIR+Area+Control+Center/@35.1550037,33.2275874,17z)

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**Further information can be obtained by:**

Flight Safety Unit

Licensing Section

DCA

Tel.: +357 22404126/22404128

Email: [eld@dca.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:eld@dca.mcw.gov.cy)

**For details related to the applicable fees:**

DCA Accounts Department

Tel. +357 22404143/22404148/22404144

**AIC C 005/19 dated 26 June is hereby cancelled**