

SECTION 2: ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY RATING SCALES

Applicability

1.1 The following rating scale applies to Aviation English language proficiency assessments:

- (a) Level 6 – expert level;
- (b) Level 5 – extended;
- (c) Level 4 – operational.

Requirements

2.1 Applicants are assessed for aviation English language proficiency against the rating scales in clause 3 below.

Rating scales

3.1 Level 6 – Expert

3.1.2 The person must communicate effectively face-to-face using clear and precise English so that each of the following is the case for the person:

- (a) pronunciation, stress, rhythm and intonation, though possibly influenced by the first language or regional variation, almost never interfere with ease of understanding;
- (b) both basic and complex grammatical structures and sentence patterns are consistently well-controlled;
- (c) vocabulary range and accuracy are sufficient to communicate effectively on a wide variety of familiar and unfamiliar topics;
- (d) vocabulary is idiomatic, nuanced and sensitive to register;
- (e) able to speak at length with a natural, effortless flow;
- (f) varies speech flow for stylistic effect, e.g. to emphasise a point;
- (g) uses appropriate discourse markers and connectors spontaneously;
- (h) comprehension is consistently accurate in nearly all contexts and includes comprehension of linguistic and cultural subtleties;
- (i) interacts with ease in nearly all situations;
- (j) is sensitive to verbal and non-verbal cues and responds to them appropriately.

3.1.3 The person must communicate effectively in voice-only radiotelephone communications, so that each of the following is the case for the person:

- (a) uses plain English effectively;
- (b) receives appropriate responses to transmissions;
- (c) responds to transmissions and takes appropriate action;
- (d) identifies and manages communication errors and misunderstandings promptly and effectively;
- (e) seeks clarification in the time available if the message is unclear or if there is uncertainty about the message;
- (f) reacts appropriately to a variety of regional accents;
- (g) communicates effectively in unexpected, stressful or non-standard situations using standard phraseology or plain English.

3.2 Level 5 – Extended

3.2.1 The person must communicate effectively face-to-face using clear and precise English, so that each of the following is the case for the person:

- (a) stress, rhythm and intonation, though influenced by the first language or regional variation, rarely interfere with ease of understanding;
- (b) basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are consistently well-controlled. Complex structures are attempted but with errors which sometimes interfere with meaning;