



# Advisory Circular

**CAA-AC-PEL025**

September 2022

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## AVIATION LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING FOR LICENCE ENDORSEMENT

### 1.0 PURPOSE

This Advisory Circular is issued to provide guidance, information and procedures required to be followed by holders or applicants of pilot, air traffic controller, aeronautical station operator, ground instructor, flight operations officer or dispatcher, flight engineer and flight navigator licences in complying with the English Language Proficiency requirements under the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022.

### 2.0 REFERENCES AND FORMS

2.1 Regulation 25 of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022 specifying requirements for English Language proficiency for holders of and applicants for pilot, air traffic controller, aeronautical station operator, ground instructor, flight operations officer or dispatcher, flight engineer and flight navigator licence;

2.2 Various Regulations in the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022 specifying speaking and understanding English Language as a requirement for grant of the specific aviation licence;

2.3 ICAO Doc 9835 AN/453 Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements.

2.4 Holders of or applicants for pilot, air traffic controller, aeronautical station operator, ground instructor, flight operations officer or dispatcher, flight engineer and flight navigator licences are required to demonstrate speaking and understanding English language at or above operational level (Level 4), of the Rating Scale as established in Schedule 3 of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022.

2.5 The Authority has established an acceptable manner for the appropriate licence holders or applicants to demonstrate compliance with the holistic descriptors and the language proficiency levels stated in Schedule 3 of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022. The process involves testing using an Instrument adopted by the Authority for the purpose.

2.6 The six elements of linguistic descriptors which are considered in the testing are Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension and Interaction.

2.7 The testing serves two purposes: it fulfils the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022 provisions requiring that pilots, air traffic controllers, aeronautical station operators, ground instructors, flight operations officers or dispatchers, flight engineers and flight navigators demonstrate language proficiency sufficient for safe and efficient radiotelephony communications, and it provides benchmarks by which the requirement and effectiveness of English language training and learning may be determined or evaluated.

### **3.0 TEST INSTRUMENT**

3.1 Tests should evaluate speaking and/or listening skills directly, either through direct interaction or through an audio- or video-taped exchange, to meet the requirements of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022 language proficiency testing guidelines.

3.2 Proficiency tests are administered directly, through face-to-face contact between tester and test taker, or semi-directly, through recorded speaking prompts and recorded responses.

3.3 Tests that do not evaluate speaking and/or listening skills directly, either through direct interaction or through an audio or video-taped exchange, are not appropriate to meet the requirements of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022 language proficiency testing guidelines

3.4 The test material includes an oral part where a conversation between the test-taker and the Examiner takes place, description of an aviation related environment/activity and listening to and interpretation of operational environment communications. The conversation/interview is recorded and is used for assessing the six holistic descriptors in line with the provisions of the Aviation Language Proficiency rating scale

#### **3.5 Eligibility**

3.5.1 Holders of or applicants for pilot, air traffic controller, aeronautical station operator, ground instructor, flight operations officer or dispatcher, flight engineer and flight navigator licences are eligible for the examination to demonstrate the ability to speak and understand English as required by the Regulations.

### **4.0 GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES**

4.1 English Language proficiency testing will be part of the examinations for applicants of pilot, air traffic controller, aeronautical station operator, ground instructor, flight operations officer or dispatcher, flight engineer and flight navigator licences. Therefore applicants for English Language proficiency testing will required to complete the examinations booking form.

4.2 It is the responsibility of both the employers and holders of licenses to ensure compliance with this requirement.

#### **4.3 Testing and Scoring Procedures**

4.3.1 Pilots, air traffic controllers, aeronautical station operators, ground instructors, flight operations officers or dispatchers, flight engineers and flight navigators are tested in context

similar to that in which they work. The test content should therefore be relevant to their roles in the work-place.

4.3.2 The test provides the test-takers with sufficient and varied opportunities to use plain language in aviation work related context in order to demonstrate their ability with respect to each holistic descriptor in the Language Proficiency Rating scale shown in Schedule 3 of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations 2022.

4.3.3 The test involves recording using audio recorder/electronic voice recording device which should be on the table in view of the test taker. The test taker will be briefed on this fact and the assessment method to be used.

4.3.4 The examiners assess each speech sample for all the six elements (Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension and Interaction) in accordance with the rating scale. The lower scale marked is the score level to be granted.

#### 4.4 **Re-evaluation**

4.4.1 In accordance with the First Schedule to the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations, licence holders who demonstrate proficiency level below expert level (level 6) shall be re-evaluated every three years for operational level (level 4) and every six years for the extended level (level 5).



**Uganda Civil Aviation Authority**