

PEL Notice No. 31

Reference: Part-FCL FCL.055, and Commission Regulation (EU) No 2015/340



CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE Personnel Licensing Section

Transport Malta, Vjal l-Avjazzjoni, Luqa, LQA 9023 Malta. Tel:+356 2555 5665 Fax:+356 2123 9278 info.tm@transport.gov.mt www.transport.gov.mt

Language Proficiency Test – Information to Applicants

The Language Proficiency Test

The Language Proficiency Test is conducted by a Language Proficiency Assessor.

The assessment is conducted in accordance with the ICAO holistic descriptors and the ICAO Rating Scale.

The test takes about 30 minutes. It tests only speaking and listening skills and is aviation related. Audio recordings, mainly between a pilot and a controller are played and these are followed by questions to test comprehension, pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, fluency and interactions.

The applicant will be asked questions related to his experience in aviation and questions of a general nature, always aviation related. He will also be asked questions on normal, abnormal and emergency situations to replicate as faithfully as possible the aviation operational demands. There are different scenarios for ab-intio pilots, professional pilots and air traffic controllers.

The test does not specifically tests phraseology which is tested by a radiotelephony examiner.

The test is a test of English language proficiency and not intended to check technical competence which is tested by flight/ATC examiners although the applicant is expected to understand and react appropriately to situations applicable to his level of experience.

Part of the test is without visual cues.

The test is recorded.

The plain language test assesses the six ICAO language proficiency skills: pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and interactions.

The result of the test is issued as a level according to the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale. The scale runs from Pre-elementary Level (Level 1) to the highest level, Expert Level (Level 6).

The result of the plain language test is the lowest rating among the six individual ratings.

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For example, a candidate whose language proficiency in the six skills is rated in the following way:

	ICAO Level
Pronunciation	4
Structure	5
Vocabulary	5
Fluency	5
Comprehension	6
Interactions	5

is given an overall ICAO Level 4 rating – the lowest among individual ratings.

The applicant will **not** be informed of the result of the test immediately after the test session but successful applicants will be issued a certificate by Transport Malta.

Applicants must meet at least Level 4 (Operational Level) proficiency on the ICAO Rating scale to have the English Language Proficiency Level endorsed in the licence. Level 4 is minimum level required to have the privilege to use the radio telephone.

Application Form

The application form for a language proficiency assessment can be downloaded from the Transport Malta website. Go to Aviation>Personnel Licensing > Application forms

Applicants are required to complete their details on the application form and send it to Transport Malta Civil Aviation Directorate.

Applications should be sent at least 15 days in advance. Applicants will be informed of the date and time of the test and asked to confirm their acceptance. Once the appointment is confirmed an applicant who does not turn up for the test will forfeit the application fee.

Tests are conducted at Transport Malta. Test takers have to present their ID Card or Passport.

Applicants for a student air traffic controller licence, ab-initio pilots, applicants for a flight radiotelephony operator licence and microlight pilots applying for a certificate of validation have to provide proof of having completed satisfactorily the communications examinations and the RT practical test.

A copy of the ID card or Passport is required with the application.

The fee for the test is EUR 60.00 but may be adjusted later on.

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Appeals

The applicant has the right of appeal. Appeals have to be made to the Director General for Civil Aviation within 14 days of receiving the result of the test. If there is an appeal the Chief Language Specialist will be appointed to hear the test audio recording to assess the applicant's proficiency. His/her decision will be final.

Reassessments

Applicants or holders of a pilot's licence who are assessed at Level 4 proficiency are tested every 4 years.

Applicants or holders of an air traffic controller's licence who are assessed at Level 4 proficiency are tested every 3 years.

Those who are assessed at Level 5 (Extended Level) are tested every 6 years.

A Level 6 (Expert Level) assessment does not require retesting.

Applicants or holders of an air traffic controller's licence who are assessed at Level 6 proficiency are tested every 9 years.

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