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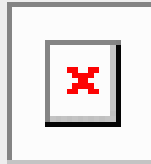
Aeronautical Information  
Services  
Department of Civil  
Aviation  
Private Bag B311  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi.

Tel: +265 (0) 1 770577/586

Fax: +265 (0) 1 774 986/770  
006

AFS: FWHQYOYX

Email: [aishq@civilaviation.gov.mw](mailto:aishq@civilaviation.gov.mw)  
[aviationhq@malawi.net](mailto:aviationhq@malawi.net)  
[civilavi@malawi.net](mailto:civilavi@malawi.net)

**AIC for Malawi****AIC**

A 001/2011

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**PERSONNEL LICENSING GENERAL LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PROCEDURES****1 NOTICE**

This AIC is only available in PDF. Please click the PDF link in the commands pane.

1.1

**1.1 BACKGROUND**

ICAO has specified English Language Proficiency Requirements and mandated that these requirements be effective from 5th March, 2008. There are six levels of proficiency in the requirement.

In accordance with the new requirements as stipulated in ICAO Annex 1 section 1.2.9.1 and 1.2.9.2, all Pilots, Flight Navigators, Air Traffic Controllers and Aeronautical Station Operators personnel must demonstrate a minimum of at least Operational level 4, in both ICAO Standard Phraseology and plain language to be issued with a licence.

The new requirements further indicate that Pilots and Air Traffic Services personnel who do not meet level 6 "Expert" must be tested for English language proficiency at regular intervals to ensure that they remain proficient at the required level.

These tests serve to fulfil ICAO provisions requiring that pilots and air traffic controllers demonstrate language proficiency sufficient for safe and efficient radiotelephony communications and provides benchmarks by which the effectiveness of language training and language learning may be evaluated.

**1.2 THE SIX LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVELS ARE:**

PROFICIENCY LEVEL	TESTING INTERVAL
Level 6: Expert	Retesting not required
Level 5: Extended	Resting required every six years
Level 4: Operational (minimum level)	Retesting required every three years
Level 1: Pre-operational	License not issued/ maintained
Level 2: Elementary	License not issued/ maintained
Level 1: Pre-elementary	License not issued/ maintained

Language proficiency requirements apply to speaking and listening proficiency only and do not address the address the ability to read or write.

**1.3 THE AREAS OF LANGUAGE TO BE ASSESSED ARE:**

Pronunciation	Ability to speak in a manner that is clear and easy to understand.
Structure	Ability to compose concise, meaningful and Unambiguous sentences or messages
Vocabulary	Ability to use correct words and phrases to Match the setting.
Fluency	Ability to understand and follow instructions Without difficulty.
Comprehension	Ability to ask and answer questions and Engages in two-way dialogue without difficulty
Level 1: Pre-elementary	License not issued/ maintained

## **1.4 LICENCES AFFECTED BY ICAO REQUIREMENTS**

The following licences are affected by this requirement - 1.

1. Aeroplane and helicopter pilots;
2. Air Traffic Controllers;
3. Aeronautical Station Operators
4. Glider and free balloon pilots (those involved in international activities)

## **1.5 Exempted from this requirement:**

1. Aircraft Maintenance Engineers; and
2. Flight dispatchers.

## **1.6 COMPLIANCE WITH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PROCEDURES**

- i. In order to comply with ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements, all Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers MUST be assessed and rated accordingly by 1st July, 2011.
- ii. Language Proficiency Ratings must make use of ICAO Rating Scale (Annex 1) and holistic descriptors and comply with the critical characteristics of testing methodology as set out in ICAO Document 9835, Chapter 6 (6.6.3).
- iii. Service providers and Aircraft Operators must ensure that their affected personnel, by this requirement, have been assessed and rated on the language before 1st July, 2011.
- iv. Operators should ensure that the personnel that they recruit have all the necessary requirements including a rating in English language proficiency.
- v. The Department of Civil Aviation will recognise English Language Proficiency Ratings issued by all other ICAO contracting states.
- vi. Candidates, who do not meet the ICAO Level 4 requirements, will be required to undergo remedial language training in order to address areas of difficulty identified.

### **1.6.1 APPROVED TESTING CENTRE IN MALAWI**

1. English Language Proficiency testing is carried out informally by Department of Civil Aviation approved Flight Operations and Radio Telephony Examiners who hold a level 6 "Expert" Language Proficiency Rating. (See Appendix).
2. This information testing may be carried out during routine Initial or Periodic Flight Proficiency Testing, Initial Radio Telephony Proficiency Testing, or Air Traffic Services Proficiency Assessments.
3. If during informal testing the candidate fails to demonstrate Level 6 "Expert" Proficiency then that candidate must be referred to a specialist language assessor.
4. The Department of Civil Aviation recognises The British Council as a specialist language assessor through its International English Language Testing System (IELTS).
5. IELTS courses cover four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking.
6. Candidates are requested to take the "academic" training format which is designed to test the full range of formal language skills required for a language demanding academic course such as Air Traffic Control.
7. The IELTS scores range from 1 to 9 and are cross matched to the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale.
8. All Pilots, Air Traffic Controllers and Aeronautical Station Operators who are not rated as Level 6 "Expert" on the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale must achieve a score of 6.5 or above in the IELTS examinations.
9. Candidates achieving a score of 6.5 or higher in the IELTS examinations will be afforded a level 5 on the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale.
10. For booking, requirement and information about IELTS, please contact The British Council in Lilongwe and ask for IELTS Handbook. More information can be found on IELTS website [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org).

### **1.6.2 LICENSING PROCEDURES FOR CURRENT AND NEW LICENCE HOLDERS FOR LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ENDORSEMENT**

1. Pilots who have had their licences issued or renewed before 1st March, 2011, will be issued a endorsed with the necessary ICAO language proficiency endorsement at level 4, unless proof of testing by an ICAO approved examiner or testing organisation to a higher level is furnished to the Department of Civil Aviation.
2. If there no proof of a higher level of language proficiency then during their next Periodic Flight Proficiency Test their language proficiency will be simultaneously (informally) tested by the supervising Department of Civil Aviation Flight Operations Examiner.
3. All new licence applicants with at least level 4 Language Proficiency assessments will have that level endorsement added to their licence.

The list of existing recommended Test Centres in ICAO member states will be provided from time to time as necessary and their addresses can be obtained from the DCA Flight Operations/Licensing Section.

This circular is issued for information, guidance and necessary action.

**A.C. Mtilatila**

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**DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION****1.6.3 1.6.1 APPENDIX TO AIC NO. A1/2011****LIST OF INFORMAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMINERS**

- Abraham S. Mangwana
- Nigel Airey
- Grey Bowden
- S. Galafa

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