



A I C
AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR
BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION
P. O. BOX 367
BELIZE CITY
BELIZE C.A.

TEL: (501) 225-2014
FAX: (501) 225-2533

C009/08
16th June, 2008

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

The Belize Department of Civil Aviation, in complying with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), requires that all aeronautical personnel are in compliance with the Language Proficiency Requirements. This ICAO Standard was adopted and incorporated into the Aeronautical Technical Licensing Regulations.

With immediate effect, a licence will not be issued unless it complies with the following requirements, regarding the ability to speak and understand the English language:

- a) Aeroplane and helicopter pilots required using the radio telephone aboard an aircraft and air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators shall demonstrate the ability to speak and understand the English language.
- b) Aeroplane and helicopter pilots required using the radio telephone aboard an aircraft and air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators shall demonstrate the ability to speak and understand the English language used for radio telephony communications.
- c) All Air Traffic Controller trainee and Aeronautical Station Operators shall be assessed on his ability to speak and understand the English language by Air Traffic Service (ATS) Inspectorate.

Language Proficiency Requirements

With effect from 5th March 2008, aeroplane and helicopter pilots, air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators shall demonstrate the ability to speak and understand the language used for radiotelephony communications to the level specified in the Language Proficiency Requirements.

The language proficiency of aeroplane and helicopter pilots, air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators shall be formally evaluated at intervals in accordance with an individual's demonstrated proficiency level as follows:

- a) those demonstrating language proficiency at the Operational Level (Level 4) should be evaluated at least once every three years and
- b) those demonstrating language proficiency at the Extended Level (Level 5) should be evaluated at least once every six years.
- c) those demonstrating language proficiency at the Expert Level (Level 6) will be exempted from further language evaluation.

Holistic Descriptors.

Proficiency speakers shall:

- a) communicate effectively in voice- only (telephone/ radio telephone) and in face- to-face situations,
- b) communicate on common, concrete and work- related topics with accuracy and clarity,
- c) use appropriate communicative strategies to exchange messages and to recognize and resolve misunderstanding (e.g., to check, conform, or clarify information) in a general or work – related context,
- d) handle successfully and with relative ease the linguistic challenges presented by a complication or unexpected turn of events that occurs within the context of a routine work situation or communicative task with which they are otherwise familiar, and
- e) use a dialect or accent which is intelligible to the aeronautical community.

Rating scale:

- a) Pronunciation, stress, rhythm and intonation are influenced by the first language or regional variation but occasionally interfere with understanding.
- b) Structure: Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are used creatively and are usually well controlled. Errors may occur, particularly in unusual or unexpected circumstances, but rarely interfere with meaning.
- c) Vocabulary range and accuracy are usually sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work related topics. Able paraphrase successfully when lack of vocabulary in unusual or unexpected circumstances.
- d) Fluency: Produces stretches of language at an appropriate tempo. There may be occasional loss of fluency on transition from rehearsed or formulaic speech to spontaneous interaction, but this does not prevent effective communication. Able to make limited use of discourse markers or connectors. Fillers are not distracting.

e) Comprehension is mostly accurate on common, concrete, and work related topics when the accent or variety used is sufficiently intelligible for an international community of users. When the speaker is confronted with a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events, comprehension may be slower or requires clarification strategies.

f) Interactions: Responses are usually immediate, appropriate and informative. Initiates and maintains exchanges even when dealing with an unexpected turn of events. Deals adequately with apparent misunderstandings by checking, confirming or clarifying.

In compliance with the Language Proficiency Requirements of ICAO Annex 1, the Belize Department of Civil Aviation has adopted the Central American Aviation English Test (CAAET). All candidates, aeroplane and helicopter pilots, air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators desirous of obtaining a Belize License or operating in Belize will be required to submit themselves for testing. Testing will take place at the offices of the Belize Department of Civil Aviation and candidates will be required to schedule a test date two weeks prior to testing.

Licensed personnel desirous of validating a certificate will be required to show proof of language proficiency or other provisions made by the state issuing the aforementioned certificate.