ICAO Aviation English Language Test Endorsement

Nicole Barrette-Sabourin
Aviation Safety Training Section, ANB, ICAO

Outline

• Purpose:
  – Review ICAO’s Aviation English Language Test Endorsement Process.

• Topics:
  – Test endorsement process
  – Current activities
  – Next steps
Endorsement Process

• Systematically review and confirm that language tests of aviation English are good testing instruments reflecting the ICAO LPR.

• Voluntary Test Service Provider participation.

• Evidence based: must reflect the ICAO LPR.

• Test tasks must reflect the operational reality and using plain English in situations requiring it.

Developing the Process

• Sept. 2010: Project launch
• Sept. – Dec. 2011: Create the process
• Nov. - Dec. 2011: process adjustments
• January 2012: receive tests for endorsement
A Team Effort

• Initially, ICAO, IFALPA, ICAEA, ILTA
• Jan. 2011: added team members with practical experience working with language tests.
• Contributors:
  • Cpt. E. Valdes (IFALPA)
  • Carolyn Turner (ILTA)
  • Philip Shawcross (ICAEA)
  • Scott Shallies (IFATCA).
  • Adrian Enright
  • Sergey Melnichenko
  • Alicia Guana
  • Evandro Alves
  • Ana Lúcia Tavares Monteiro
  • Ma Tao

Process and Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Endorsement</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-endorsement (3 yrs.)</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Endorsement Website (icao-aelte.org)

Aviation English Language Test Endorsement

Welcome to ICAO’s Aviation English Language Test Endorsement Service

ICAO’s aviation English language test endorsement service is intended to evaluate aviation English language tests and endorse those meeting established Language Proficiency Requirements. Please note that ICAO does not endorse tests of general English proficiency.

The site includes 3 main areas: Test Service Providers (TSPs) test evaluation and to list endorsed tests. Follow the “About” link below for an overview of the endorsement process.

Test Service Providers
- Log in to create a TSP account
- Define tests for endorsement
- Manage endorsed tests

Test Evaluators
- Learn about becoming a test evaluator
- Apply to become a test evaluator
- Log in to create a test evaluator account

Endorsed Tests
See a list of ICAO endorsed aviation English language tests.

The Basis for Test Evaluation

Test Evaluation Criteria

Language Testing Criteria

Evidence

Validity
Reliability
Practicality

ICAO Doc. 9835
Endorsement Activities

- Project pilot:
  - 2 tests evaluated
- ‘Regular’ endorsements:
  - 2 tests being evaluated
  - 3 TSP ready to submit test documentation
  - 3 TSP going through the process
- 20 TSP (including above) have accounts
- Regular email contacts (via endorsement site)
- No tests endorsed yet

Tips For Preparing for Endorsement

1. Review ALL relevant documents (ICAO Doc. 9835, Test Pre-assessment, Test Documentation Requirements).
2. Use the test pre-assessment to identify potential problems with your test.
3. Follow the directives to prepare and submit test documentation.
4. Be precise and to the point: keep explanations short and focused (point form is acceptable).
5. For each explanation given, clearly identify what was done, how, why and the results achieved.
6. Clearly link test characteristics with the criteria in Doc. 9835.
Next Steps

• Ongoing improvements:
  • Website
  • Pre-assessment questionnaire
  • Policy, documentation requirements
  • Test evaluation tools

• Transition to more permanent ‘home’

Thank you!