

Observations on current testing practice

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The European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation



Language proficiency

High stakes?

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Busy ATC sector



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Quiet airport



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Actors

- *Flight crew*
- *ATC controllers*

Two different examples, one thing in common:

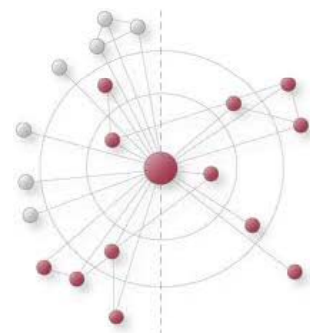
- *Passengers must be able to count on the professionalism of both experts*
- *Passengers are the main (end) users of our air transport network, relying on the experts for a safe arrival*

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Network




Standards in Language proficiency do contribute to the safety of this network.

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Language proficiency implementation, achievements?



We want to be compliant

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Does a checkmark contribute to safety?

Do standards, recommendations and legislation contribute to safety?

NOT without commitment

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What we need first is a good understanding of the contribution of language proficiency to safety




Major research projects aiming at more capacity and a higher level of safety →

Language proficiency standards do contribute already NOW. We can achieve a lot with much less effort compared to ATM research.

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Who contributes:

ICAO

- Standards, recommendations
- ICAO doc's, circulars. Guidance
- Test endorsement
- Support to States

European Commission (region specific)

- Appropriate legislation
- Efficient oversight

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Who is missing?

The national authority (CAA,NSA etc-)



Observed practises

- Grandfather rights (still)
- Test shopping to find an easy pass
- Language check during competency check
- Use of tests that clearly do not meet ICAO requirements
- Acceptance of “exotic” endorsements



Not fair to put the responsibility on the licence holders only.

This complex framework of regulations can provide the solution however only when we start working together.

Only we can make this system work as a contribution to aviation safety and only when we are convinced that language proficiency does contribute.

Does it?, or do you want to



EUROCONTROL's contribution

The nomination of EUROCONTROL as Network Manager will enable the establishment of common procedures for the design, planning and management of the European ATM Network, ensuring the efficient and safe performance of air traffic management.



EUROCONTROL's contribution

The goal of the Network Manager is to continuously improve ATM network operations within the Single European Sky, contributing to the achievement of European Union-wide performance targets.

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EUROCONTROL's contribution

EUROCONTROL's current contribution to language proficiency:

A test to test **E**nglish **L**anguage **P**roficiency for **A**eronautical **C**ommunication:

- Job related
- According to ICAO recommendations
- Reliable standards ensuring a consistent minimum level of English language proficiency for network users

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Questions?

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