



International Civil Aviation Organization

North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

**Second Meeting of North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation (NACC/DCA/2)**

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 11 – 14 October 2005

NACC/DCA/2-WP/42

30/09/05

**Agenda Item 2: Safety Oversight**  
**2.5 Safety – related topics**

**ATS PERSONNEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

(Presented by COCESNA)

**SUMMARY**

This Working paper presents actions that COCESNA is taking to fulfill the norm ICAO en the performance of Air traffic Controllers in Language English, avoiding thus this factor is contributor for occurrence of Incidents ATS

Also it presents information on the actions that COCESNA it is making in preparation of a project of implementation of competition of English language that it has like primary target to obtain that personnel ATC of the Central American region reaches the level required by the OACI.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Before the notification of indicated deficiencies in the competition in use of the English Language in Air Traffic Services in meeting CAR/SAM/3, COCESNA determined like a remedial action that the candidates to Controller of Air traffic must have a dominion of English language and established like recruitment requirement the approval of examination that validates this competition, giving like result that hiring as of April of year 2000 are described completely bilingual.

**2. Actions executed by COCESNA**

2.1 It was designated to an Air Traffic Controller of specialization in the education of English Language so that it impelled the proficiency of Language English of ATS, personal, besides gave him the respective training for it, having attended Linguistic Symposium of Aviation of ICAO made in Montreal, Canada.

2.2 In the month of July 2003 a Training program was begun in English Language directed to 23 controllers of CENAMER with some antiquity and that presented some weaknesses in the handling of this Language, this program consisted of applying examinations and thus to determine in which level were each one of them.

- 2.3 Same year the specialist in education in the English language began to give classes in the facilities of COCESNA initiating with level two (2), after 10 months of teaching of classes in a schedule of Monday through Friday with two hours daily, were reached level four (4) being so the weaknesses of the handling were surpassed of language and obtained fluidity.
- 2.4 In the month of January 2005 COCESNA to traverse of the Management of Human Resources, it contracted an educative institution specialized in the education of the English Language, institution to which approximately 50% of the Controllers of Air traffic are receiving a complete course that will be finalized until December 2006.
- 2.5 On July 2005 was evaluated all the personnel of CENAMER according to the emitted recommendations of evaluation in document 9835 of ICAO, preliminary edition 2004 "Manual for implementation of the requirements of English Language Proficiency ", using the following methodology:
- a) Was applied an examination type oral interviews of approximately 20 minutes to evaluate the competition of speech and listening.
  - b) This examination is based on the scale of levels and description holistic of ICAO.
    - Pronunciation
    - Grammar Structure
    - Vocabulary
    - Fluidity
    - Interactions
  - c) The competition of the speech was evaluated and listens in an appropriate context for aviation
  - d) The use of the language in a context was evaluated ampler than the use of the phraseologies of single ICAO in case.
- 2.6 Controllers were evaluated, obtaining a general diagnose of the proficiency of the personal ATS of the Control center of CENAMER with following results:
- 2.7 The diagnosis indicated that a 2% of the controllers are in Pre-elementary level, a 4% in level 2 and a 13% in level 3 to do total of 19% of the controllers of CENAMER ACC that is below level operational 4 of OACI; a 30% are in operational level 4, a 18% is in level 5; and a 33% are in the expert level 6 to add this a total of 81% that is in level 4 or upon this level.
- 2.8 COCESNA is preparing a project of implementation of proficiency of English language that it has like primary target to obtain that personnel ATC of the Central American region reaches operational level 4 with aim to fulfill the dispositions of the ICAO, established in Annexed 1 to the Agreement of Chicago.

### **3. Action Suggested**

it invites to the meeting.

- a) To take note from the content of this note of study;
- b) To continue with actions of training in order to comply with ICAO norm in performance of Air traffic Controllers in English language, avoiding that which this factor is contributor for occurrence of Incidents ATS