



EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY
AGENCE EUROPÉENNE DE LA SÉCURITÉ AÉRIENNE
EUROPÄISCHE AGENTUR FÜR FLUGSICHERHEIT

EASA's perspective on ATCO licensing and language proficiency

Zsuzsanna Erdelyi
European Aviation Safety Agency

Montreal, 25 March 2013

Your safety is our mission.
easa.europa.eu



What is EASA?

- **EASA is located in Cologne, Germany**
- **It employs around 700 professionals from all EASA Member States**





Why EASA?

- Certain **tasks** performed at Community or national level to be carried out by **a single specialised expert body**
 - Establish the **European Aviation Safety Agency**
 - independent in technical matters;
 - legal, administrative and financial autonomy;
 - Community body with legal personality;
 - exercising the implementing powers conferred on it by this Regulation
 - **EASA system** = shared roles between Member States, Commission, EASA & stakeholders
- 



Rulemaking on ATCO licensing

- **Subject:** Development of rules on Air Traffic Controller licensing
- **Task:** ATM.003, ToR adopted in 2009
- **Working Method:**
 - Rulemaking group (11 members from stakeholders, unions, ANSPs, authorities + Commission)
 - Medical requirements addressed by ad-hoc expertise
 - Eurocontrol expertise involved where appropriate
 - Phased approach



European developments

**Directive
2006/23 on
Community
ATCO licence**



**Regulation
805/2011
on ATCO
licences**



**Regulation
xxx on ATCO
licensing –
EASA NPA
2012/18**

**LPR introduced,
transposition
deadline:
17/05/2010**

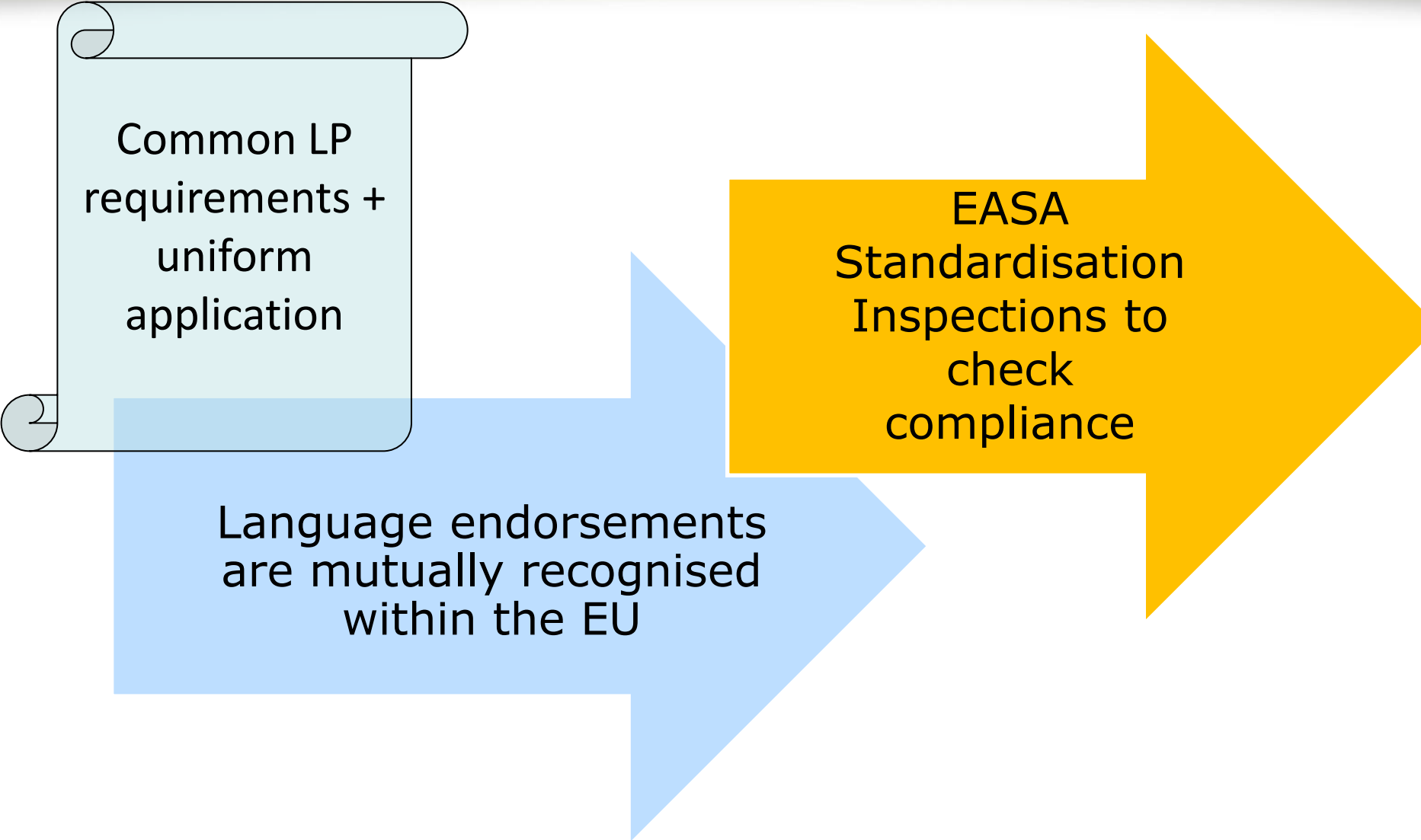
**NEW: ANSPs to
provide
justification when
requiring level 5 +
CA approval**

**NEW: 9 years
validity for level 6
+ criteria for
language
assessment bodies**

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014



Implementation status in the EU



Common LP
requirements +
uniform
application

Language endorsements
are mutually recognised
within the EU

EASA
Standardisation
Inspections to
check
compliance



Inspection results

- Inspection results show certain non-compliances
- Corrective actions adopted, implementation on-going
- **Examples:**
 - Missing records demonstrating that an adequate level of English language proficiency has been achieved
 - Language assessment procedures not approved / not overseen by CA/NSA
 - Validity issues
 - No consequent periodical assessment
 - Issues with the local language requirement, if applicable
 - > often no language test and no formal phraseology



LPR in NPA 2012-18

- **Level 4** in English & in the language(s) published in the AIP
 - Level to be determined by using the holistic descriptors + rating scale
 - Level 5 may be required for safety reasons, justified and approved by CA
- Proficiency attested by a **certificate**
- **Validity: 3/6/9 years**
- **Revalidation:** within 90 days preceding expiry = no time loss, otherwise validity counting from date of assessment
- Expiry >> **renewal**



9 years validity for level 6

► Reasons:

- » Language erosion affects all levels
- » Differences in assessments and test standards
- » “Native speaker” issue
- » Granted or tested ???
- » Non-discriminative tool for ANSPs
- » ...

► Impacts:

- » 9 year validity means revalidation ca. 4 times within the career of an ATCO
- » Availability of tests ???
- » Costs depending on the current availability of tests

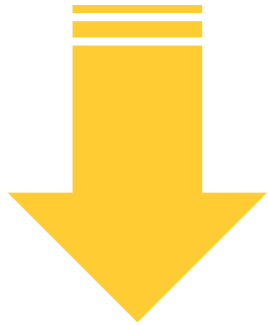


Assessment of language proficiency

- **Assessment of language proficiency**
 - Method of assessment established by the CA
 - Containing assessment process, organisation requirements, qualification requirements, appeals procedure
- **Focus on language** rather than operational procedures
- **Visual and non-visual communication** in routine and non-routine situations
- Suitably trained and **qualified assessors** (aviation or language specialists / team)
- Criteria for the **acceptability of language assessment bodies**
- Inspired by ICAO Doc 9835 and Cir 318/AN/180



Language proficiency
endorsement =
Mutual Recognition



**Trust in the system
requires equal
standards**

However:

- Diverse testing / assessment methods
- "Slipping test standards"
- "Native speaker" issue
- Phraseology vs. plain language
- Different validity period for pilots and ATCOs



EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY
AGENCE EUROPÉENNE DE LA SÉCURITÉ AÉRIENNE
EUROPÄISCHE AGENTUR FÜR FLUGSICHERHEIT

Thank you for your attention!

Your safety is our mission.
easa.europa.eu