ELPAC

English Language Proficiency for Aeronautical Communication

ICAO test endorsement

Montreal, 25-27 March 2013
Why should you want your test to be endorsed?
How do you get your test endorsed by ICAO?

What documents do you upload, what does ICAO want to see?

- Test design and construct
- Test validity and reliability
- Candidate rating
- Test administration and security
- Record keeping
- Organisational information and infrastructure
- Test development team qualifications
Provide evidence!
The process.
So far ELPAC is the only test for Aviation English with an unconditional endorsement from ICAO…
…But there is always room for improvement!

ICAO will evaluate the material and make recommendations.
First of all:

The ELPAC test demonstrates many of the qualities sought in a well-designed test of aviation English. Eurocontrol has invested significant time and effort, and worked with numerous experts to create a test of aviation English that meets the needs of the aviation community.
No further validation study after the development of the test was finished and the test released for use.

- Although we have constantly evaluated the performance of the test this is indeed correct.
- This year we are collecting extensive feedback from the users in preparation of the official new validation of the test in 2014. This work will be done by an independent university (not our partner university ZHAW).
Raters should be audited periodically to make sure the standards are being applied.

- This isn’t easy for us because, as you know, ELPAC is conducted by the user organisations themselves.
- We are checking a fixed percentage of the tests done by our users. This will be expanded later this year and will be supported by our test system.
- Further our user organisations are required to organise annual rater or examiner workshops according to our template for such an event.
Raters must be trained every year.

• Again, this is a huge logistical operation for ELPAC as raters/examiners are based in numerous countries that use ELPAC.
• We do invite every examiner to annual refresher training.
• ELPAC examiner refresher e-learning training in 2014. ELPAC examiners will be required to follow this annual e-learning training before being allowed to test another year.
• Every three year we do invite the examiners to classroom examiner refresher training.
ELPAC future after the endorsement

Committed to renewal of the endorsement in 2015

The ELPAC test management partnership

- EUROCONTROL
- ZHAW – The Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- ENOVATE
Outlook

- Develop a test for pilots based on the endorsed ELPAC test format, available from 2014.
- Make ELPAC available to the international aviation community.
- Include the ELPAC Level 6 test in the next endorsement request.
Some thoughts.
Thank you!