

ICAO Language Proficiency in Ab-Initio Flight Training

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Introduction

- Growing need for pilots worldwide
- Increase in ab-initio flight training
- 2008 ICAO language proficiency requirements

Objectives

- Pre-selection: ICAO language proficiency requirements
- Content-based language training: integral part of the ab-initio flight training process

Current Language Assessment Practices in Flight Training

- Norm-referenced tests: TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS, grammar tests...
- AME, CFI, DPE
- No assessment

Assessment for Flight Readiness

- Semi-direct or direct language testing (e.g. OPI)
- Trained and calibrated language testers

Sample Language Protocol for Pre-selection

- Assessment of appropriate level
 - Operational Level 4 or above
 - Mid/Strong Pre-Operational Level 3
 - Mid/Weak Pre-Operational Level 3
 - Elementary Level 2 or below

Content-based Language Training

“Language learning is not an auxiliary to other aviation training, but an integral part of it.” (ICAO Doc 9835 - 4.4.11)

How does this apply to ab initio training?

Content-based Language Activities

- Flight training scenarios as an integral part of the language learning process.

Interactions:

- Flight student/instructor
- Flight instructor/dispatcher
- Mechanic/flight student
- Weather briefer/flight student
- Air traffic controller/flight instructor
- Flight student/Flight student

Resources

- Resources at the training facility
 - Authentic materials used in ground school
 - Materials used for flight training preparation
 - Video recordings of actual training flights
 - Audio recordings of actual ATC communications
 - Recordings to include aviation language functions

Conclusion

- Language Protocol for Pre-selection
- Integrated Language Training:
Content-based
- Safe and More Efficient Flight
Training