



**Departamento
de Controle do Espaço Aéreo**
Department of Airspace Control



Language Proficiency Requirements Program at DECEA: Implementation, Evolution and Future Challenges



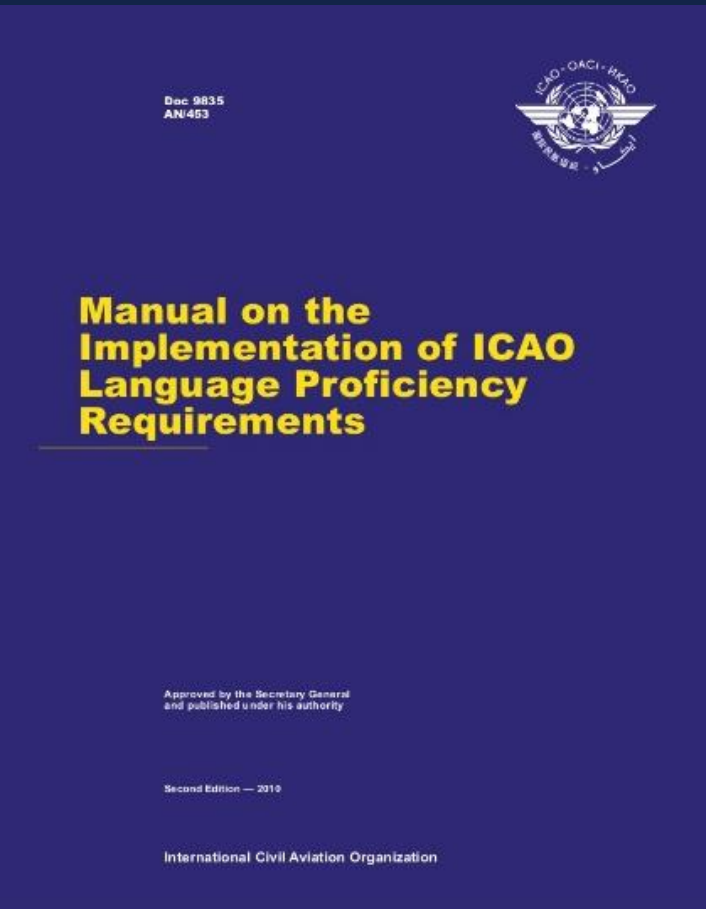
Objective



To provide an overview of the implementation of the Language Proficiency Requirements (LPR) Program at DECEA, discuss its evolution, and highlight current and future challenges.

Fábio Maciel/ASCOM

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- ✓ stipulates that all non-native English speaking pilots and controllers engaging in the international operations should take a specific purpose test and prove that they have the minimum required operational level of proficiency;
- ✓ six assessment criteria: Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension, and Interactions;
- ✓ six levels of proficiency;
- ✓ stipulates level 4 as the minimum for international operations.

The local context



- ✓ 22 million km²
- ✓ 5 Control Center (military)
- ✓ 42 Approach Control Center (military)
- ✓ 59 Control Towers (military and civilian)
- ✓ 3808 ATCOs
- ✓ 2490 ATCOs deal with international traffic

LPR Implementation Timeline



2005

- ✓ Diagnostic Test for ATCO involved in International Air Traffic Control
- ✓ Controllers with the best scores were invited to work as subject matter experts in the LPR Project
- ✓ Language experts with aviation experience were hired
- ✓ DECEA developed the first version of the LPR Program, outlining measures such as aviation English training and assessment

2007

- ✓ The Aeronautical English Proficiency Exam for Air Traffic Controllers (EPLIS) was delivered for the first time and 3347 professionals were assessed
- ✓ Only 12% were assessed as level 4 or higher
- ✓ DECEA submits an Implementation Plan to ICAO

LPR Implementation Timeline

2008
-
2010

- ✓ Development of Aeronautical English Instructor Training Course (CTP011)
- ✓ Implementation of Ab-Initio Aeronautical English Training
- ✓ Development of Aeronautical English Training Course (CTP010)
- ✓ Development of Phraseology Training for Emergency Situations (CTP004)
- ✓ Procurement of General English Courses
- ✓ TESOL programs in English speaking countries for Instructors
- ✓ International Rater Training Courses for examiners
- ✓ Creation of a research group called GEIA – Aeronautical English Study Group

2013

LPR Implementation Timeline

2016

- ✓ Development of online Aeronautical English Training focused on ACC, APP and TWR (CTP016, 17 and 18)

2018

- ✓ Procurement of immersion courses for air traffic controllers in the United States
- ✓ An Eye On You - Instagram Page for Aeronautical English Training

2020

- ✓ Partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for the development of an online 200h Aeronautical English Course
- ✓ Development of Training Courses focused on the ICAO Rating Scale Categories (TRE)

Now

- ✓ EPLIS Validation Project

LPR Evolution: EPLIS

- EPLIS comprises two papers: Paper 1 and Paper 2;
- Paper 1 is a computer-mediated listening test.
- Test-takers must score 70% of the 30 multiple-choice items in Paper 1;
- Paper 2 is an oral interview, which assesses both oral production and integrated listening comprehension;
- Test takers are assessed by two examiners: a rater, who uses the ICAO rating scale and an interlocutor, who uses a holistic scale;
- Both the team of raters and the development team are composed by both applied linguists and air traffic controllers;
- www.eplis.icea.gov.br



LPR Evolution: EPLIS



Before	Now
Aviation Related	RT Specific
General Aviation topics	Sets for Ab-Initio, TWR, APP, ACC, ASO, and Air Defense
2 on-site examiners (1 LE and 1 SME)	1 on-site examiner and 1 remote rater (1 LE and 1 SME)
External Validation Project (2010)	Ongoing Validation Project (2 PhD and 1 Msc)
Initial Rater Training (2-day training)	Initial Rater Training (2-week course – CTP019)

LPR Evolution: Instructor Training Course



- ✓ 3-week on-site course (CTP011)
- ✓ Students must be Level 5 in EPLIS
- ✓ Students must score 70% or higher in an interview
- ✓ Content: Teaching English for Specific Purposes, Teaching Methodologies, Teaching Techniques, Error Correction Strategies, etc.

LPR Evolution: Online Training Courses



The screenshot shows the ICEA Virtual platform interface. At the top left is the ICEA logo and the text 'Instituto de Controle do Espaço Aéreo'. To the right is the 'ICEA VIRTUAL' logo and a user login status 'Você acessou como Prof. Paula (Sair)'. Below this is a language dropdown menu set to 'Português - Brasil (pt_br)'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'GO4IT' and an image of an airplane flying through a storm. Below the banner is a 'Getting Started' section with a list of items: 'Formulário de Dados Pessoais', 'Fórum de boas-vindas', 'Manual do Aluno', and 'Ementa do Curso'. On the left side, there is a 'Navegação' (Navigation) menu with various course-related links. On the right side, there are sections for 'Participantes' (Participants), 'Usuários Online' (Online Users), 'Mensagens' (Messages), and 'Calendário' (Calendar).

- ✓ GO 4 IT
- ✓ 10-week online Aeronautical English Training
- ✓ Focused on Level 3 Students
- ✓ English-mediated tutorship
- ✓ ACC – CTP016
- ✓ APP – CTP017
- ✓ TWR – CTP018

LPR Evolution: Online Training Courses



Pronunciation

Watch the plane dropping out parachuting words. First, listen and repeat the regular and irregular verb forms in the Past Simple. Then, drag the words to their corresponding target.

Regular Verbs

Irregular Verbs

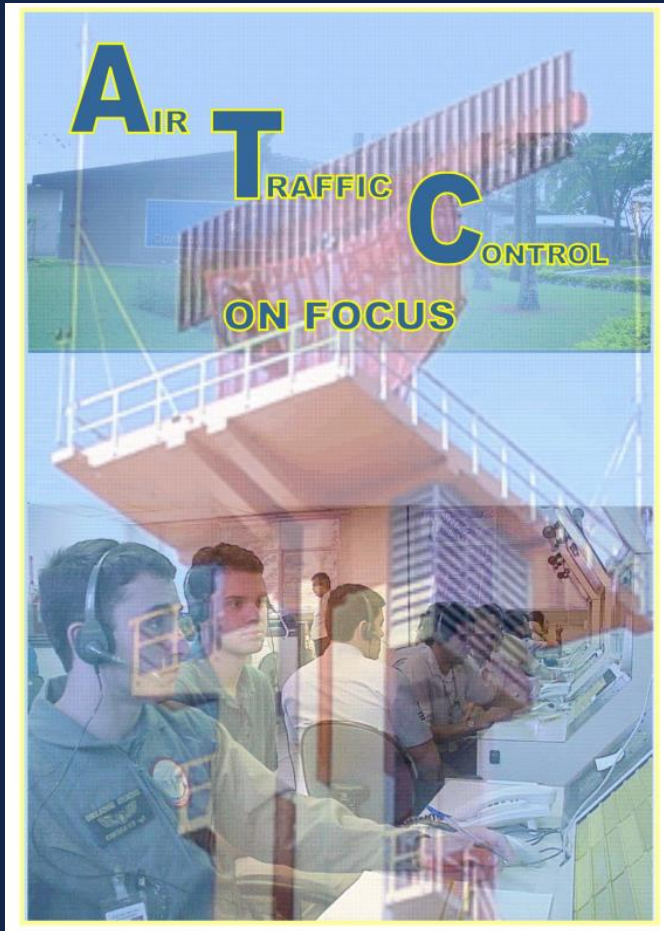
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< PREV

NEXT >

- ✓ MOVING 4WARD
- ✓ 21-week online Aeronautical English Training
- ✓ Focused on the categories of the ICAO Rating Scale (Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension and Interaction)
- ✓ Self-instructional training

LPR Evolution: On-site Training Courses



- ✓ Aeronautical English Training Course (CTP010)
- ✓ 2-week Course
- ✓ Level 3 Students
- ✓ Topics: Air Communication, Meteorology, Airport Installations, Airplanes, Medical Emergencies, etc
- ✓ Phraseology Training for Emergency Situations (CTP004)
- ✓ 1-week Course
- ✓ All Levels
- ✓ Topics: Aeronautical Communication, Malfunctions, Cargo, etc

Current and Future Challenges



- ✓ The need for ATCOs subsumes the possibility of hiring and training professionals whose proficiency in aviation English meet the requirements
- ✓ ATCOs who achieved level 3 or below are licensed to control domestic flights
- ✓ ATCOs who achieved level 3 are licensed to control international flights, but every ATC shift will have at least an ATCO with level 4 or higher
- ✓ Challenge in motivating the ATCO
- ✓ ATCO with borderline proficiency



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