



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG Air Traffic Management Sub-Group

Third Meeting (ATM SG/3)
(Cairo, Egypt, 22 – 25 May 2017)

Agenda Item 6: ATM Safety Matters

ELP FOR ATCOs AND SAR EXPERTS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a highlight on English Proficiency for Air Traffic Controllers and SAR experts for the meeting appropriate actions to ensure effective implementation.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- IELP Workshop Summary of Discussions
- RASG-MID/5
- RSC/5

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 English Language Proficiency is among the subjects of common interest for MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID.

1.2 The provisions and guidance related to the implementation of ELP requirements are contained in ICAO Doc 9835. The main objective of ELP Requirements is to ensure that pilots and air traffic controllers are able to communicate proficiently using both ICAO phraseology and plain English.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting may wish to recall that formal evaluation of language proficiency was required as of March 2008, but ICAO effectively extended the deadline to 05 March 2011.

2.2 ELP grades are based on a scale of 6 levels with Level 1 being the lowest:

Level 6:	Expert
Level 5:	Extended
Level 4:	Operational
Level 3:	Pre-operational
Level 2:	Elementary
Level 1:	Pre-elementary

2.3 ATCOs are required to demonstrate proficiency at Level 4 or higher in all the six (6) following areas: Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehensive and Interactions.

2.4 With the view to support ELP implementation in the Region, the ICAO MID Office jointly with Bangkok and Paris Offices organized the Interregional English Language Proficiency (IELP) Workshop, which was gratefully hosted by Kuwait from 9 to 11 November 2015.

2.5 The outcome of the IELP was reported to the Fourth meeting of the RASG-MID Steering Committee (RSC/4, Cairo, Egypt, 15 – 17 December 2015). The RSC/4 meeting supported the outcome of the Workshop and agreed that the MID Safety Support Team (MID-SST) take them into consideration in its future work programme to recommend necessary follow-up actions

2.6 The main outcomes of the IELP Workshop are as follow:

- Licenses should be endorsed based on ICAO recognized tests.
- Need to enhance States' safety oversight capabilities related to LPRs implementation, including through ICAO Home of English Language Proficiency Programme (iHELPP) and training of concerned regulators' staff.
- Regulators should maintain regular contact with the Test Service Providers.
- ICAO to consider inclusion of ELP related procedures in the PANS Training Document (Doc 9868), as appropriate.
- ICAO to consider developing additional ELP (testing) related Protocol Questions (PQs) within the USOPA CMA framework.
- Based on identified requirements (safety case), ICAO to consider the development of provisions related to ELP for other aviation safety related disciplines (e.g. AIM, MET, firefighting, flight attendants, ground staff).
- Cooperation and sharing of information, sharing of resources at regional/sub-regional level to be encouraged.
- ICAO ELP training material (i.e. sound samples) to be used and further developed, including the development of a Computer Based Training (CBT).

2.7 The outcome of the IELP was also supported by the RASG-MID/5 meeting, and agreed that the MID-SST.

2.8 The meeting may wish to note that the following Safety Enhancement Initiative (SEI) was developed aiming at improving the implementation of ELP requirements in the MID Region:

<i>SEI: Improve implementation of ELP requirements in the MID Region</i>	
Actions	Champion
Develop a questionnaire to be used as the basis of a survey to assess the implementation of ELP requirements.	UAE in coordination with the ICAO MID Office
Disseminate the questionnaire to the MID States.	ICAO
Analyse the survey results and agree on next course of actions.	MID-SST in coordination with the ATM SG

2.9 The meeting may wish to note that currently the SAR personnel are not required to meet the ELP requirements (Level 4 or higher). However, in accordance with Annex 12 provisions, the RCC personnel involved in the conduct of radiotelephony communications should be proficient in the use of the English language. The USOAP CMA Regional Effective Implementation of PQ related to the provisions of Annex 1 and Annex 12 related to RCC English language Proficiency is 53% only.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) agree on measures that would support effective implementation of ELP for ATCOs and ensures that RCC personnel involved in the conduct of radiotelephony communications are proficient in the use of the English language; and
- b) encourage States to support the SEI related to ELP and reply to the questionnaire that will be circulated by the MID Office related to ELP.

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