



ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 34: Proficiency in the English language used for radiotelephony communications

IMPLEMENTATION OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

(Presented by India)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper provides an update on the implementation of language proficiency requirements stipulated in Annex 1 — *Personnel Licensing*.

Strategic Objectives:

This working paper relates to Strategic Objective A.

References:

Annex 1

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The requirement of English language proficiency is laid down in Annex 1 — *Personnel Licensing* to the Convention. India has adopted the ICAO requirement in its regulation. This paper provides information on the introduction of English language proficiency assessment in India.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Historically in India, the pilots, air traffic controllers and flight engineers carry out radio communication in English. The examinations for issue of licenses to pilots and engineers including air traffic controllers are conducted in English. Clause 6A of Section A of Schedule II of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 stipulates that an applicant for the issue of a private pilot's licence (aeroplanes/helicopters); commercial pilot's licence (aeroplanes/helicopters); airline transport pilot's licence (aeroplanes/helicopters); flight engineer's licence; and flight navigator's licence shall have the ability to speak and understand the English language used for radiotelephony communications to the level of proficiency specified by the Director General.

2.2 The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), Section 7, Series G, Part III under the provisions of Schedule II and Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 which lays down the levels of proficiency, including the procedures for the evaluation and endorsement of the level of proficiency on the licences specified in the said rule.

2.3 The CAR specifies that all holders of licences in India shall, from 1 October 2010 undergo an assessment to demonstrate an operational level of the ability to speak and understand English language used in radiotelephony and have the assessment level (Level 4 and above) endorsed on their licence before 5 March 2011. Further, from 1 October 2010, all applicants for the issue of licences shall undergo training and assessment to demonstrate an operational level of ability to speak and understand English language used in radiotelephony and shall submit a certificate containing the level and validity of the language endorsement issued by the DGCA approved examiner/assessment team for endorsement on the licence.

2.4 Except for persons who have demonstrated language proficiency at an expert level (Level 6), the language proficiency endorsement shall be re-evaluated:

- a) every three years if the level demonstrated is operational level (Level 4); or
- b) every six years if the level demonstrated is an extended level (Level 5).

3. CONDUCT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT ON BEHALF OF THE DGCA

3.1 A Board constituted by the DGCA shall approve examiners to conduct English language proficiency assessment on behalf of the DGCA. The nominated examiners shall be trained in the specific requirements of the assessment. Examiners shall not test applicants to whom they have given language training. In case an airline so desires, an assessment team consisting of an operational expert and a language expert may also be approved to carry out an English language proficiency assessment.

3.2 The examiner/assessment team shall provide the applicant, with a copy to the DGCA, a certificate containing the level and validity of the language endorsements. On the basis of the certificate, the DGCA will endorse the licence with the level of proficiency.

4. ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY BY LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT BODIES INCLUDING AIRLINES/FLYING TRAINING INSTITUTES

4.1 The DGCA may approve language assessment bodies including airlines/flying training institutes to conduct an English language proficiency assessment. To ensure an impartial assessment process, the organizations shall ensure that the language assessment is independent of the language training. The assessment documentation and records is required to be kept for a minimum period of six years.

5. **ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING**

5.1 The English language training may be imparted by the organizations approved by the DGCA. In order to be approved, the organizations including airlines/flying training institutes shall develop and submit their training programme to the DGCA for approval. The programme developed shall take into account the factors that influence the language learning process including a blend of skills, knowledge and cultural awareness combining physical components with mental and communicative components.

5.2 The training programme shall be of minimum 100 hours duration and shall include the six descriptors skill areas vis-à-vis pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and interactions with special emphasis on language and communicational skills required in aerodrome communication, en-route communication, pilot/controller and controller/controller interactions including communication in emergency situations. The training shall be imparted by qualified and current instructors in the DGCA approved facilities.

5.3 Understanding the specialization required in the development of the language training programme, an airline or a flying training institute may enter into a written agreement to share linguistic resources and development of a training programme and its review with another capable language training institution. Such an arrangement will form part of the programme evaluation by the DGCA prior to its approval.

6. **ACTION TAKEN BY DGCA, INDIA**

6.1 Civil Aviation Requirement Section 7, Series G, Part II has been issued and implemented in India.

6.2 The Assembly is invited to note the content of this information paper.

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