



Ministry of Transport

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29th April 2008

Mr Taieb Cherif
Secretary General
International Civil Aviation Organisation
999 University Street
Montreal, Quebec
CANADA H3C 5H7

Dear Mr Cherif,

**Re: ICAO Resolution on English Language Proficiency Requirements :
Compliance status by the Cook Islands**

I have the honour to provide hereto a brief on Cook Islands efforts to be compliant with the above requirements.

English Language Proficiency is required by ICAO Annex 1 and other related Annexes. Cook Islands has, under the auspices of the Cook Islands Civil Aviation Rules 2003, adopted the new requirements for English language proficiency stipulated in New Zealand Civil Aviation Rule (CAR) Part 61 (Pilot licenses and ratings) and Part 65 (ATS Licenses and ratings) and their associated Advisory Circulars AC-61.1 and AC 65.1.

Presently, only Air Traffic Services licenses are issued by the Ministry of Transport of the Cook Islands. Foreign Pilot licenses, mostly New Zealand's, are validated by the Ministry based on the validity of pilot's medical. With the amendment of validity for ICAO Class 1 medical to two years, a decision on whether to limit the validations to one year is being considered.

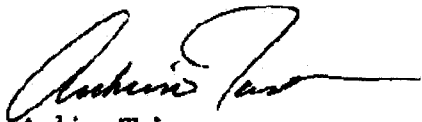
ATS trainings for the Cook Islands are mandated under CAR Part 65. The Cook Islands Airport Authority (CIAA) under the ambit of the Cook Islands Civil Aviation Rules 2003 is the sole provider of ATS in the Cook Islands. Under CAR Part 172, the trainings for ATS have to be delivered by a CAR Part 172 Certified Organisation. Thus all ATS trainings for ICAO 051, 052 and 053 ATS Courses for CIAA's new ATS recruits are delivered by the New Zealand Airways Corporation at their Training Centre. CIAA ATS Trainees after completions of the six months ICAO courses at the Airways Training Centre will have gained New Zealand Air Traffic Trainee Licenses (ATTL) with the Final Proficiency Assessments (FPA) to be conducted after three months at Rarotonga Airport's ATS Unit by a CAR Part 65 Approved ATS Examiner. The New Zealand ATTL will be validated and issued with Cook Islands equivalent ATTL prior to commencement of OJT Training at Rarotonga Airport ATS Unit.

The Cook Islands will accept all ATS and Foreign Pilot Licenses issued prior to 05 March 2008 as meeting the English language proficiency requirements. The New Zealand Airways Training Centre, Regulatory Authority (NZCAA) will be requested by the Ministry to provide proof that the Training Centre's ICAO 051, 052 and 053 Courses complies with the new English Language requirements prior to any future ATS trainings for the Cook Islands Airport Authority. All Foreign Pilot licenses issued after 05 March 2008 and to be validated by the Ministry will have to include proof of passing the minimum requirement (Level 4) for the English Language proficiency.

With the Legislations already in place and the acceptance of ATS and Pilot Licenses issued before the 05 March 2008, Cook Islands is in a good position to comply with the ICAO Resolution on English Proficiency. Any English testing that will be required in the future shall be addressed by Air Services Limited (ASL) who has been contracted by NZCAA to provide that service to its industry.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aukino Tairea', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aukino Tairea
Secretary of Transport