ELPAC English Language Proficiency for Aeronautical Communication

EUROCONTROL

English Language Expert (ELE) — assessment criteria

Criterion	ICAO Level 3 assessment criteria — ELE	ICAO Level 4 assessment criteria — ELE	ICAO Level 5 assessment criteria — ELE	ICAO Level 6 assessment criteria — ELE
P **Pronunciation**	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	The test taker has a noticeable accent, but they articulate words clearly and in a way that is easy to understand.	The test taker can adapt the way they articulate in a way that is situationally appropriate, by slowing down or speaking more deliberately for clarity.
S **Structure**	The test taker only uses simple grammatical structures. They make errors which make them difficult to understand, so that the meaning can only be inferred.	They use simple grammatical structures reliably. Even when they make grammar mistakes, they remain intelligible.	The test taker makes grammatically correct sentences. Both simple and complex structures are used competently and with few isolated errors.	The test taker shows variety in their use of simple and complex grammatical structures that is situationally appropriate — for example by avoiding the use of overly complex language for clarity.
V **Vocabulary**	The test taker lacks control in their English language use. They have a limited vocabulary and therefore lack accuracy in speaking.	The test taker has a basic command of English sufficient for them to do their job. Their vocabulary range allows them to speak accurately.	The test taker's vocabulary range and accuracy cover a wide domain of topical knowledge that is not limited to aeronautical radiotelephony communication.	The test taker's range and accuracy of vocabulary allow them to adapt their choice of words in a way that is situationally appropriate, for example by avoiding low frequency words in the interest of comprehensibility.
F **Fluency**	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	The test taker uses a variety of connectors to link utterances, for example to show cause and effect.	The test taker speaks fluently and adapts the way they speak in a way that is situationally appropriate.
C **Comprehension**	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	The test taker can handle an unusual or unexpected situation. They understand meaning even when it is stated implicitly. They reliably detect instances of miscommunication.	The test taker handles comprehension issues successfully by asking clarifying questions to check and confirm, to resolve misunderstandings, and to ensure that they have correctly understood.
I **Interaction**	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	*Void — rated by the OPE at this level.*	The test taker's responses are concise and to the point. They respond appropriately to meaning, even when it is only stated implicitly, by checking and clarifying.	The test taker interacts with ease with interlocutors at all proficiency levels. They provide feedback to interlocutors to indicate that they understand and ask probing questions to ensure the interlocutor is able to follow.

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Operational Expert (OPE) — assessment criteria

Criterion	ICAO Level 3 assessment criteria — OPE	ICAO Level 4 assessment criteria — OPE
P **Pronunciation**	The test taker's pronunciation does not conform to ICAO recommendations for use on the radiotelephony frequency. Their mispronunciation of words makes them difficult to understand or even unintelligible.	The test taker's pronunciation conforms to ICAO recommendations for use on the radiotelephony frequency. Their pronunciation is intelligible with little effort from the listener.
S **Structure**	*Void — rated by the ELE at all levels.*	*Void — rated by the ELE at all levels.*
V **Vocabulary**	*Void — rated by the ELE at all levels.*	*Void — rated by the ELE at all levels.*
F **Fluency**	The test taker's speech transmitting techniques do not meet ICAO recommendations for intelligibility. Slowness, hesitations and pausing interfere with ease of comprehensibility. The test taker uses phraseology inconsistently: they randomly switch between phraseology and plain language. Callsigns are used inconsistently. They may fail to use phraseology consistently.	The test taker's speech transmitting techniques meet ICAO recommendations for intelligibility. Slowness and pausing do not interfere with comprehensibility. The test taker uses phraseology consistently: they prioritise the use of phraseology but can switch to appropriate plain language if necessary. Callsigns are used consistently.
C **Comprehension**	The test taker understands routine transmissions but may fail to understand an unfamiliar accent or an unusual or unexpected situation — even after asking for clarification.	The test taker understands routine transmissions. They may be slow to understand initially in unusual or unexpected situations but can apply basic clarification strategies that lead to successful comprehension.
I **Interaction**	The test taker is unable to detect and resolve instances of miscommunication. When a misunderstanding occurs, they lack the ability to negotiate for better understanding. They are unable to adapt the way they speak.	The test taker can adapt and vary the way they formulate transmissions on the radiotelephony frequency in a way that is situationally appropriate and leads to communicative success in the interest of safety, expediency and efficiency. They apply basic clarification strategies to ensure they have been understood correctly.

Tasks 2 + 3 picture description + OPI	Does the test taker's command of English exceed the demands of their job and the ICAO language proficiency requirements?		
OPE **confirmation**	**Not applicable** It was determined at the end of Tasks 1a and 1b that the test taker is not ICAO Level 4. **ICAO Level 3** ☐	**No** The test taker's command of English meets the ICAO language proficiency requirements but does not exceed them. **ICAO Level 4** ☐	**Yes** The test taker's command of English exceeds the demands of the ICAO language proficiency requirements. **Above ICAO Level 4** ☐