Language proficiency assessment requirements

This notice is for information only. It can be used as guidance.

Applicability:

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<th>Medical</th>
<th>Training organisation</th>
<th>Language Assessment Bodies</th>
<th>FSTD</th>
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Aircraft Category:

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1. Introduction

With this Information Notice the BCAA wishes to remind the provisions of the EU Regulation 1178/2011 of 3 November 2011 laying down technical requirements and administrative procedures related to civil aircrew (Reg 1178/2011) and of the Royal Decree of the 19th March 2014 ruling knowledge of languages in civil aviation.¹

In particular, the BCAA would like to draw your attention on the Language Assessment requirements established by Reg 1178/2011, FCL.05S Language Proficiency (b)(1) and by the related AMC1 FCL 0.55 Language proficiency - General and Assessment - (c) (1), (2) and (3).

2. Guidance

Language Assessment methodology has to imperatively include communication in face-to-face situations and the assessment of the candidate needs to be subdivided into three elements: listening, speaking and interaction.

While wide variety of technologies may be used to cover some of the elements mentioned above, it appears that only tele-conferencing technology ensures interaction and communication in face-to-face situations.

Candidate and assessors need to jointly participate in an interaction where the candidate has to demonstrate an operational level of language proficiency in the use of both phraseology and plain language and the assessor needs to have enough interaction in order to lead the assessment and duly estimate language proficiency level.

Furthermore methodology of the assessment needs to guarantee candidate communication in face-to-face situations with both the linguistic and operational assessors and assessors proceeding to a proper identity check of the candidate.

As a result of the required elements above, BCAA has decided that ELP assessments organized by LABs not using face-to-face communication, have to be supported by tele-conferencing technologies.

In order to be compliant with the European regulations, LABs not using face-to-face communication, are then required by 1st November 2019 to update their Operations Manual, review their language assessment methodology and revert to tele-conferencing technology.

3. Reference in legislation

- FCL.055 Language Proficiency (b)(1)
- FCL.055 AMC1 FCL 0.55 Language proficiency – General and Assessment - (c) (1), (2) and (3)
- ICAO Doc 9835, Appendix A Part III and Appendix B

4. Entry into force and cancellation

This information notice remains in force until further notice.

5. Queries

Please inform your postholders, linguistic and operational assessors of the above mentioned. Questions, clarification requests and comments can be sent to the following address bcaa.ato@mobilit.fgov.be

Belgian Civil Aviation Authority,
Licensing Directorate,
Training Department