	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</b>  <b>DIRECTORATE OF SAFETY REGULATIONS</b>  <b>PERSONNEL LICENSING</b></p>	<p>Revision: 1</p> <p><b>Advisory Circular</b></p>
<p>Document No.: <b>TCAA- AC-SR-PEL025A</b></p>	<p>Title: <b>Aviation Language Proficiency Testing for Licence Endorsement</b></p>	<p><b>Page 1 of 3</b></p>

## AVIATION LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING FOR LICENCE ENDORSEMENT

### 1.0 PURPOSE


This Advisory Circular is issued to provide guidance, information and procedures required to be followed by holders or applicants of pilot, air traffic control, flight engineer and flight radio telephone operator licences in complying with the English Language Proficiency requirements under the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations as amended.

### 2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 Regulation 8 of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations specifying requirements for English Language proficiency for pilot, flight engineer, air traffic control and radiotelephone operator aviation licence holders;
- 2.2 Various Regulations in the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations specifying speaking and understanding English Language as a requirement for grant of the specific aviation licence;
- 2.3 Regulation 160(2) of the Civil Aviation (Operations of Aircraft- Commercial Air Transport) Regulations, 2024 requiring air operators or owner of aircraft to ensure using flight crew who speaks and understands English language;
- 2.4 ICAO Doc 9835 AN/453 Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 With effect from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008, the holders of pilot, flight engineer, air traffic control licence and radiotelephone operator licences are required to demonstrate speaking and understanding English language at or above operational level (Level 4), of the Rating Scale as established in the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations as amended.
- 3.2 The Authority has established an acceptable manner for the appropriate licence holders or applicants to demonstrate compliance with the holistic descriptors and the language proficiency levels stated in the First Schedule to the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations. The process involves testing using an Instrument adopted by the Authority for the purpose.
- 3.3 The six elements of linguistic descriptors which are considered in the testing are Pronunciation, Structure (grammar), Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension and Interactions.
- 3.4 The testing serves two purposes: it fulfils the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations provisions requiring that pilots, flight engineers, Air Traffic controllers and radiotelephone operators demonstrate language proficiency sufficient for safe and efficient radiotelephony communications, and it provides benchmarks by which the requirement and effectiveness of English language training and learning may be determined or evaluated.

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<p>Document No.: <b>TCAA- AC-SR-PEL025A</b></p>	<p>Title: <b>Aviation Language Proficiency Testing for Licence Endorsement</b></p>	<p><b>Page 2 of 3</b></p>

#### 4.0 TEST INSTRUMENT

4.1 Aviation English language proficiency tests should evaluate speaking and/or listening skills directly, either through direct interaction or through an audio- or video-taped exchange, to meet the Requirements of the ICAO language proficiency testing guidelines.

4.2 The Authority have adopted the test instrument to be known as Aviation Language Proficiency Tests.

4.3 A **“written” paper** consisting of a set of multiple-choice questions which, the test takers, having listened to an audio played to them, are required to select and mark their response on paper test takers are assessed on vocabulary and comprehension. The written paper is used for the purpose of placement/benchmarking.

4.4 **An oral**, where a conversation between the test-taker and the Examiner takes place. The conversation/interview is recorded and is used for assessing the five holistic descriptors in line with the provisions of the Aviation Language Proficiency rating scale.

#### 4.5 Eligibility

4.5.1 Holders or applicants of pilot and flight engineers’ licence, air traffic control and radiotelephone licences are eligible for the examination to demonstrate the ability to speak and understand English as required by the Regulations.

#### 4.5.2 Applicability to Glider and Free Balloon Pilots

Holders or applicants of glider and free balloon pilot licences shall demonstrate English language proficiency if their operation involves the use of radiotelephony communications. Testing and assessment shall follow the same process as outlined for other licence holders.


#### 5.0 GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES

5.1 English Language proficiency testing will be part of the examinations for applicants of pilots, air traffic control, flight engineer or radiotelephone operator licences. Therefore, there will not be any different application form specifically for English language testing.

5.2 Employers (air operator in particular) of current holders of pilots, flight engineer, air traffic control and radiotelephone operator licenses are required to apply for English language proficiency test for testing to avoid disruption of their operation programme. However, both employers and holders of licenses are responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement.

#### 5.3 Testing and Scoring Procedures

5.3.1 Pilots, air traffic controllers, flight engineers and flight radio-telephone operators are tested in context similar to that in which they work. The test content should therefore be relevant to their roles in the work-place.

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<p>Document No.: <b>TCAA- AC-SR-PEL025A</b></p>	<p>Title: <b>Aviation Language Proficiency Testing for Licence Endorsement</b></p>	<p><b>Page 3 of 3</b></p>

5.3.2 The test provides the test-takers with sufficient and varied opportunities to use plain language in aviation work related context in order to demonstrate their ability with respect to each holistic descriptor in the Language Proficiency Rating scale shown in Second Schedule to the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations as amended.

5.3.3 The test involves recording using audio recorder/electronic voice recording device which should be on the table in view of the test taker. The test taker will be briefed on this fact and the assessment method to be used.

5.3.4 The scoring shall be done as soon as possible following the test. The paper marking shall be corrected in accordance with the marking scheme provided, after the completion of the test. The pass-mark is 70%.

5.3.5 The examiners shall assess each speech sample for all the six elements (Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension and Interaction) in accordance with the rating scale. The lower scale marked is the score level to be granted.

#### **5.4 Re-sit and Appeals**

5.4.1 A candidate who scores less than 70% in audio test only may be allowed to re-sit the examination after making appropriate arrangements, depending on availability of examiners. Three consecutive failures will necessitate the candidate to attend a training course approved by the Authority.

5.4.2 A candidate failing to achieve operational level 4, will be required to undergo Aviation English training and show proof of completion of the approved course before being allowed to re-sit.

5.4.3 Candidates are allowed to appeal within two weeks of the results. When the appeal is received and accepted the Authority shall constitute a panel of two new examiners to conduct fresh assessment on the recorded speech samples. The cost of the review shall be met by the appellant.

#### **5.5 Re-evaluation**

5.5.1 In accordance with the second Schedule to the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations as amended, licence holders who demonstrate proficiency level below expert level (level 6) shall be re-evaluated every three years for operational level (level 4) and every six years for the extended level (level 5).



**Director Safety Regulation**