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# IRELAND

SAFETY REGULATION DIVISION  
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY  
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## AERONAUTICAL NOTICE

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF ICAO STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES  
AND JOINT AVIATION REQUIREMENTS (FLIGHT CREW LICENSING) FOR  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (ELP) OF PILOTS AND FLIGHT ENGINEERS**

### **1. Background - Introduction of English Language Proficiency (ELP) Requirements**

1.1. The Tenth Edition of Annex 1 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation - Personnel Licensing - (Paragraph 1.2.9) requires aeroplane, helicopter, airship and powered-lift pilots to demonstrate a minimum of ICAO Level 4 (Operational Level) language proficiency no later than 5th March, 2008. For Ireland, in effect, this means English Language Proficiency (ELP). ICAO Annex 1 also recommends that language proficiency standards be applied to flight engineers, glider pilots (when required to have a pilot licence) and free balloon pilots and the Authority has decided to implement this recommendation.

(Note: The only category of pilots not required to meet ELP requirements in Ireland are Foot-Launched Powered Aircraft (FLPA) pilots, whose exemption/licence system prohibits flight in controlled airspace and does not require radiotelephony communication skills.)

1.2. JAR-FCL Part 1 (Aeroplane) (Amendment 7) and JAR-FCL Part 2 (Helicopter)(Amendment 5) were effective from 01 December, 2006 in Ireland (refer Aeronautical Notice Nr. P. 13, Issue 7, of 23 Nov. 07). JAR-FCL 1.010(a)(4) and 2.010(a)(4), respectively, require aeroplane and helicopter pilots to meet the ICAO ELP standards.

1.3 AMCs No. 2, paragraph 4, to JAR-FCL 1.010 and 2.010 state that "Based on existing assessment methods the Authority may decide that active holders of an ATPL(A or H) issued in accordance with JAR-FCL requirements should be graded Level 4 as of the 5 March 2008". The Authority is adopting this approach across the board and all pilots (professional, private and student) and flight engineers will be granted an ICAO Level 4 licence endorsement before that date, based on the formerly accepted methods of ELP assessment.

### **2. Details of Issue of English Language Proficiency (ELP) Licence Endorsements**

2.1. The method of issuing the ELP Licence endorsement will be a remark in Section XIII which refers to an ELP Certificate of Test. The Certificate of Test will show an "Effective initial Date of Issue" of 05 March, 2008, assessment at "ICAO Level 4 (Four)" and an "ELP Period of Validity Expiry date" of 04 March, 2011. The same endorsement / Certificate of Test will issue to all Licence holders, irrespective of whether a JAR-FCL or Irish national Licence is held.

2.2. Issue of ELP endorsements will commence from 17 January, 2008 and they should all be issued by 29 February, 2008, in order to allow time for arrival by post by the date of implementation of the ICAO Language Proficiency standards, i.e. 05 March, 2008.

2.3 Endorsements will be issued in the alphabetical order of the surname of the Licence holder. (Note: The prefixes "O", "Mc", "Mac" are ignored for alphabetical order purposes. Where a "double part" surname is concerned, the second part only will be reckoned for alphabetical order purposes.)

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2.4. This Aeronautical Notice will be published on the IAA Website “www.iaa.ie” together with an associated Information Note to be accessed from the IAA Home Page indicating which surnames (in alphabetical order) are being processed that day.

2.5. Endorsements will be posted by ordinary post to the Licence holders declared Licence address, unless they have specified a separate address for correspondence (this is also held on the Personnel Licensing Database System). In this connection, it is vital that licence holders check that they have advised the IAA Personnel Licensing Office if their current address is not the address shown on their Licence. Change of address notification should be sent by E-mail to “licensing@iaa.ie” or by Fax to Tel. No. +353-1-677 7484 or by post to the address at the top of this Notice. The notification should include the Licence holder’s IAA reference No., Date of Birth, old address and the new address and contact details of Tel. / Mobile / Fax / E-mail address. Change of Licence address can then be effected at the same time as the issue of the ELP endorsement. National Licence holders may also need to submit two new Licence photographs if these are not already held on their Licence file.

2.6. If any queries arise as regards ELP requirements, they should be sent by E-mail to “licensing@iaa.ie” or by Fax to Tel. No. +353-1-677 7484 in the first instance, rather than by telephoning the Personnel Licensing Office, which will have limited facility to answer calls during the period to end February, 2008. If any queries arise as regards non-receipt of ELP endorsements, the Licence holder should first check that (a) the IAA Website indicates that his/her surname’s letter has been processed and (b) that his/her filed Licence address is correct. Queries about non-receipt should be sent by E-mail or Fax as per the above.

2.7 Registered Facilities, Flight and Type Training Organisations, Flying Clubs, AOC Holders and other air operators are encouraged to display this Notice on their staff notice boards or to promulgate this Notice by any other means at their disposal.

2.8. There will be further Aeronautical Notices / Notices to RTFs & FTOs issued dealing with the related areas of:-

- (a) ELP testing at all levels of pilot licence / Type Rating / Instrument Rating / MCC training;
- (b) ELP testing for Irish-issued Licence holders working / resident abroad;
- (c) ELP requirements and testing arrangements for holders of non-JAR-FCL licences wishing to obtain validation to fly Irish-registered aircraft;
- (d) The disposition of non-Irish Licence holders who wish to fly Irish-registered aircraft or in Irish airspace, whose country of licence issue does not issue them with either an acceptable or any ELP Licence endorsement.
- (e) Training and appointment of ELP Examiners for all levels of pilot licence / Type Rating / Instrument Rating /MCC training.

### **3. Future arrangements for English Language Proficiency (ELP) Licence Endorsements**

3.1. All Licence holders will be required to undergo an ELP Test during the 3-year period between 05 March, 2008 and 04 March, 2011. The level and nature of the test will be commensurate with their licence privileges.

3.2. If the ELP test results in the Licence holder achieving an ICAO Level of 1, 2 or 3, the Licence holder may no longer fly as a pilot / flight engineer and should contact the Authority for further advice.

3.3. If the ELP test results in the Licence holder achieving an ICAO Level of 4 or 5, the ELP Period of Validity will be 3 years or 6 years, respectively.

3.4 If the ELP test results in the Licence holder achieving ICAO Level 6, the ELP Period of Validity will be for the Licence holder’s lifetime and an application can be made to the Authority for a new ICAO Level 6 lifetime Licence endorsement.

Chief Executive  
Irish Aviation Authority