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A Review and Discussion: FAA English Language Standard for an FAA License

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The FAA Aviation English Language Standard



A REVIEW

ICAEA
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Daytona Beach, Florida
9-11 May, 2018

Capt. Rick Valdes
United Airlines (retired)
Former IFALPA Representative to ICAO PRICESG.

ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements

Doc 9835
AN/453



Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements

Approved by the Secretary General
and published under his authority

Second Edition — 2010

International Civil Aviation Organization

Doc 9835
AN/453



Manual sobre la aplicación de los requisitos de la OACI en materia de competencia lingüística

Aprobado por el Secretario General
y publicado bajo su responsabilidad

Segunda edición — 2010



A Review:

English Language Requirements
for
Licensing Airmen (pilots)

US FAA Regulations and Guidance
to
Aviation Safety Inspectors (ASI),
Designated Pilot Examiners (DPE),
Flight Instructors, and
Flight Schools

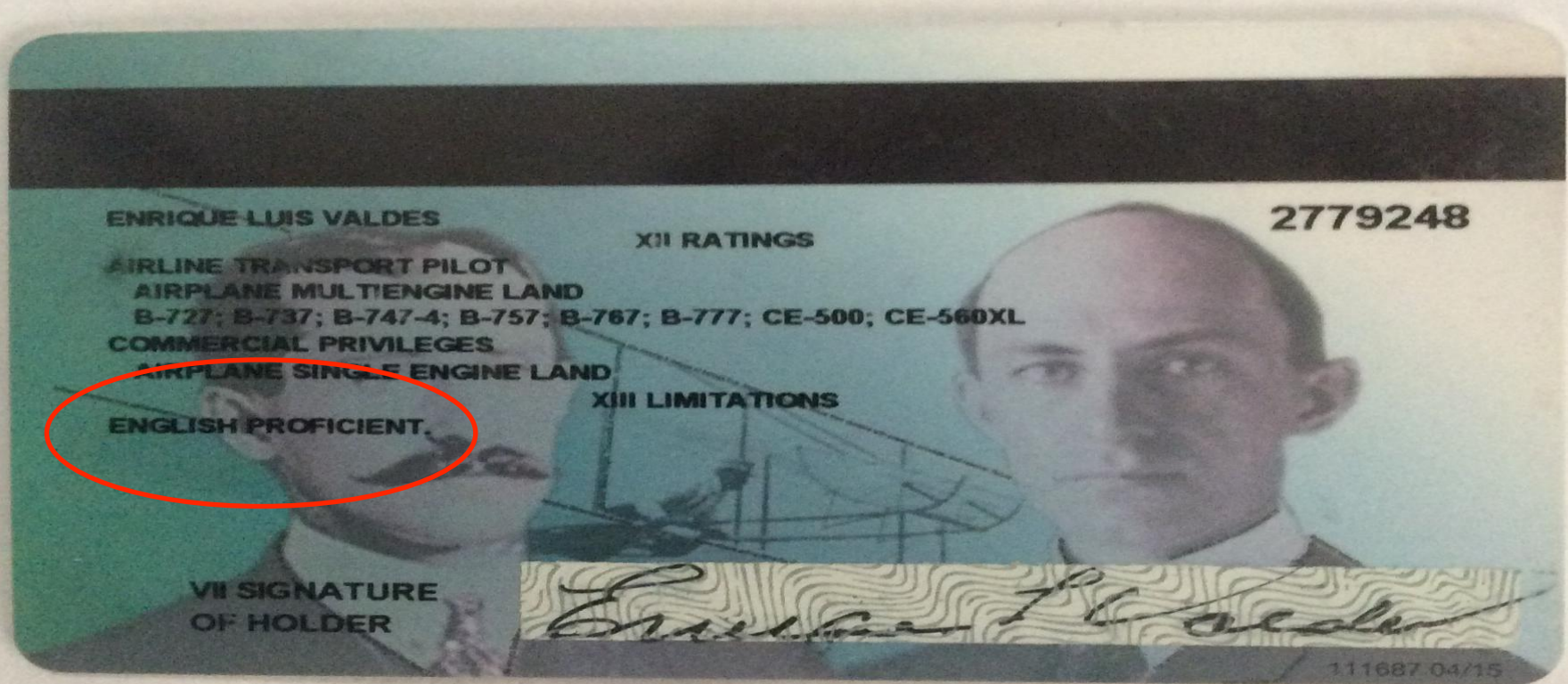
SOURCES: FAA Regulations and Advisory Documents

www.FAA.gov

- Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 61 **applies to pilots, flight instructors, ground instructors:**
 - Para 61.65, 61.75, 61.83, 61.96, 61.103, 61.123, 61.153, and 61.183.
- FAA Order 8900.1, *Flight Standards Information Management System*
 - 8900.1 CHG 566
 - 8900.1 CHG 566 Para 5-1907B
 - 8900.1 CHG 566, Para 5-1909
- FAA Advisory Circular AC 60-28
 - Definition of Terms. (para 4.2)
 - Advisory Circular 60-28B, Para A.2.1.1
- FAA Advisory Circular AC 61-65G, Appendix A

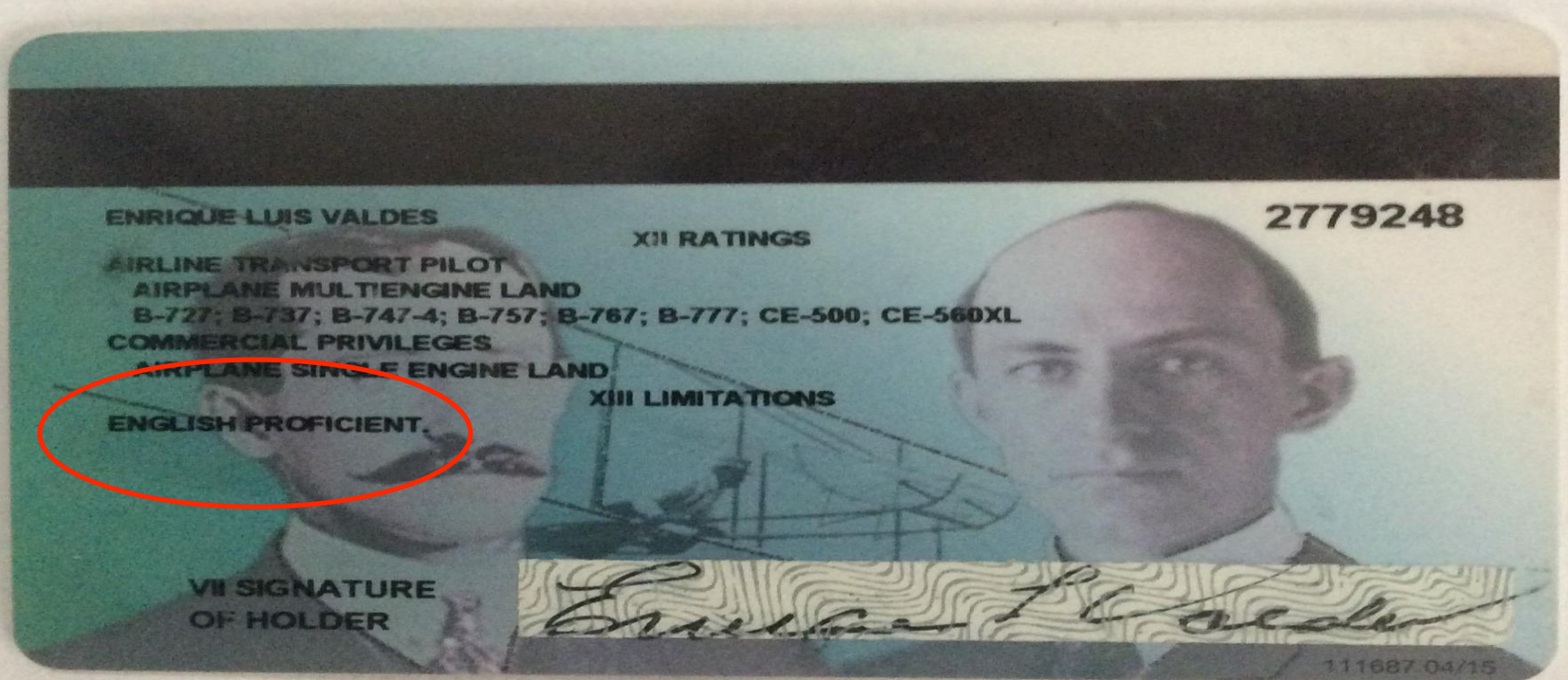


Does anyone know how the FAA added
“English Proficient” to all previous license
holders?



Initial FAA course of action to certify those pilots who already
were pilots prior to the ICAO requirements being adapted.

Can anyone tell me what is my level?



US Pilots License validity



- All FAA pilots licenses are valid as long as the physical examination by an approved FAA doctor is current.
- Validity:
 - 1st Class Physical — 6 months
 - 2nd Class Physical — 12 months
 - 3rd Class physical — 24 months

Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 61



- An applicant must
“...be able to read, speak, write, and understand the English language.”
- **Note:** “Read and write” not an ICAO requirement

FAR Part 61 applies to pilots.
Para 61.65, 61.75, 61.83, 61.96,
61.103, 61.123, 61.153, and 61.183:



FSIMS

Flight Standards Information Management System

Quick Search:

- **8900.1 Contents**
- **Areas of Interest**
- **Library Subjects**
- **Index**
- **Publications**
- **Regulatory Guidance Library**
- **Electronic Code of Federal Regulations**
- **Related Info**
- **Help & Training**

FAA Order 8900.1:

Document Title

- ☐ **FAA Order 8900.1 Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS)**
- ☐ **Change History**
- ☐ **Volume 1. General Inspector Guidance and Information**
- ☐ **Volume 2. Air Operator and Air Agency Certification and Application Process**
- ☐ **Volume 3. General Technical Administration**
- ☐ **Volume 4. Aircraft Equipment and Operational Authorizations**
- ☐ **Volume 5. Airman Certification**
- ☐ **Volume 6. Surveillance**
- ☐ **Volume 7. Investigation**
- ☐ **Volume 8. General Technical Functions**
- ☐ **Volume 9. Aircraft, Airport, and Operational Security Issues**
- ☐ **Volume 10. Safety Assurance System Policy and Procedures**
- ☐ **Volume 11. Flight Standards Programs**
- ☐ **Volume 12. International Aviation**
- ☐ **Volume 13. Flight Standards Designees**
- ☐ **Volume 14. Compliance and Enforcement**
- ☐ **Volume 15. FAA Safety Team Policies and Procedures**
- ☐ **Volume 16. Unmanned Aircraft Systems**
- ☐ **Volume 17. Safety Management System**

FAA Guidance

Order 8900.1



☐ Chapter 8. Conduct a Special Medical Test Title 14 CFR Part 67

☒ Chapter 9. Other Airmen Authorizations

☒ Chapter 10. Administer a Title 14 CFR Part 133 Chief Pilot Knowledge and Skill Test

☒ Chapter 11. Administer a Knowledge and Skill Test to an Agricultural Pilot

☒ Chapter 12. Title 14 CFR Part 141 Pilot School

☒ Chapter 13. Additional Aircraft Type Specific Training

☒ Chapter 14. FAA English Language Standard for Certification Under 14 CFR Parts 61, 63, 65, and 107

[Section 1. Determine If an Applicant/Certificated Airman Meets the English Language Eligibility Requirement for an FAA Certificate](#)

☒ Volume 6. Surveillance

☒ Volume 7. Investigation

☒ Volume 8. General Technical Functions

☒ Volume 9. Aircraft, Airport, and Operational Security Issues

☒ Volume 10. Safety Assurance System Policy and Procedures

“Authorized

- individuals (such as flight instructors)
- organizations, and
- training centers ...



**FAA 8900.1 CHG
566 Paragraph 5-
1907B**

... have responsibility during

- Testing
- Checking
- Accepting an application for a Student Pilot Certificate,
- Issuing an endorsement for a flight review or solo privileges, or
- Conducting a pilot proficiency check.....

Form Approved OMB No. 2120-0060

Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application – Sport Pilot

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

I. Application Information

☒ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Private ☐ Proficiency Check ☐ Additional Rating

☐ Airplane ☐ Gyroplane ☐ Balloon ☐ Airship ☐ Glider ☐ Powered-Parachute ☐ Weight Shift Control

Flight Instructor _____ Initial _____ Renewal _____ Reinstatement _____

☐ Reexamination ☐ Reissuance of _____ certificate ☐ Other _____

A. Name (Last, First, Middle)
Jason, Hanna Marie

B. SSN (US Only)
Do Not Use

C. Date of Birth
7/2/73

D. Place of Birth
Baltimore, MD

E. Address
7206 York Road

F. Citizenship (Citizenship) Specify

☒ USA ☐ Other

G. Do you read, speak, write & understand the English language? ☒ Yes ☐ No

H. Height
63 in.

I. Weight
130 lbs.

J. Hair
brown

K. Eyes
hazel

L. Sex ☐ Male ☒ Female

M. Do you now hold, or have you ever held an FAA Pilot Certificate?
☐ Yes ☒ No

N. Grade Pilot Certificate

O. Certificate Number

P. Date Issued

Q. Do you hold a Medical Certificate? ☐ Yes ☒ No

R. Class of Certificate

S. Date Issued

T. Name of Examiner

U. Do you hold a US Drivers License? ☒ Yes ☐ No

V. License Number
J-200-432-109-876

W. State of Issuance
Maryland

X. Date Issued
6-25-03

Y. Expiration Date
7-2-08

Za. Have you ever been convicted for violation of any Federal or State statutes relating to narcotic drugs, marijuana, or depressant or stimulant drugs or substances? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Zb. Date of Final Conviction

II. If Certificate, Privilege or Rating Applied For on Basis of:

☐ A. Completion of Required Test

1. Aircraft to be used (if flight test required)
1) _____ 2) _____

2a. Total Time in this aircraft (SIM/FTD)
1) _____ 2) _____ hours

2b. Pilot in Command
1) _____ 2) _____ hours

☐ B. Graduate of Approved/Accepted Course

1. Name and Location of Training Agency or Training Center

2. Curriculum From Which Graduated

3. Date

☐ C. Holder of Foreign License Issued By

1. Country

2. Grade of License

3. Number

4. Ratings

III. Record of Pilot Time (Do not write in the shaded areas.)

| | Total | Instrument Received | Solo | Flight in Command (PIC) | Cross Country Instruction Received | Cross Country Solo | Cross Country PIC | Instrument | Night Instruction Received | Night Takeoff Landings | Night PIC | Night Takeoff Landings PIC | Number of Flights | Number of Aircraft Towed | Number of Direct Exercises | Number of Procedural Landings |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------------------|------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Airplanes | | | | PIC | | | PIC | | | | | PIC | | | | |
| | | | | SIC | | | SIC | | | | | SIC | | | | |
| Rotocraft (Gyroplane Only) | | | | PIC | | | PIC | | | | | PIC | | | | |
| | | | | SIC | | | SIC | | | | | SIC | | | | |
| Glider | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lighter Than Air | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weightshift Control | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Powered Parachute | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

IV. Have you failed a test for this certificate, privilege or rating? ☐ Yes ☒ No

V. Applicant's Certification – I certify that all statements and answers provided by me on this application form are complete and true to the best of my knowledge and I agree that they are to be considered as part of the basis for issuance of any FAA certificate to me. I have also read and understand the Privacy Act Statement that accompanies this form.

Signature of Applicant Hanna M. Jason Date Nov. 20, 2005

FAA Form 8716-11 (02-04)

**FAA 8900.1 CHG
566 Paragraph 5-
1907B**



To ensure that the individual meets the FAA regulatory English language eligibility requirements established under:

Advisory Circular (AC) 60-28 B:

FAA English Language Standard for an FAA Certificate Issued Under 14 CFR Parts 61, 63, 65, and 107.

**FAA 8900.1 CHG
566 Paragraph 5-
1907B**

ICAO ENGLISH LANGUAGE CRITERIA DEFINITIONS



- The FAA has accepted the ICAO Language Proficiency Ratings Scale Operational Level 4 as its minimum proficiency requirement.
- The Proficiency Scale is found in ICAO Document 9835.
- These definitions apply to any applicant or airman applying for or holding an FAA certificate.

8900.1 CHG 566,
Paragraph 5-1909

THE FAA MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT.



ICAO Operational Level 4 is
the minimum acceptable level of proficiency
to meet the FAA regulatory
English language eligibility requirements
for an FAA certificate.

8900.1 CHG 566,
Paragraph 5-1910

8900.1 CHG 566, Paragraph 5-1910

ASIs (**Aviation Safety Inspectors**) are encouraged to use the following ICAO language proficiency website to familiarize their hearing and educate themselves with regard to ICAO English language proficiency (ELP) operational levels so they can better determine whether an individual meets FAA AELS at ICAO Operational Level 4:



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ICAO Rated Speech Samples Training Aid (RSSTA). At the top, the ICAO logo is on the left, and the text "INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION" and "A United Nations Specialized Agency" is on the right. Below this is a purple banner with the text "Rated Speech Samples Developed for ICAO by ICAEA". Under the banner are two buttons: "Click here to view the samples" and "Click here for more information about the RSSTA project". Below the buttons, the text reads: "Welcome to the ICAO Rated Speech Samples Training Aid (RSSTA). The RSSTA, developed under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation English Association (ICAEA), is designed to:" followed by a bulleted list of objectives.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
A United Nations Specialized Agency

Rated Speech Samples Developed for ICAO by ICAEA

[Click here to view the samples](#) [Click here for more information about the RSSTA project](#)

Welcome to the ICAO Rated Speech Samples Training Aid (RSSTA).

The RSSTA, developed under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation English Association (ICAEA), is designed to:

- Raise awareness of what constitutes an acceptable or unacceptable level of English for communication between pilots and ATCs according to the ICAO scales
- Provide examples of performance at each of the ICAO levels 2-6
- Serve as an accurate and reliable reference for users
- Promote rating standardisation between different raters and test service providers and between different regions of the world
- Act as a training tool for the initial and recurring training of raters and examiners
- Support ICAO's efforts to enhance proficiency test standards

<http://cfapp.icao.int/rsta/RSSTA.cfm>

AC 60-28 B Definition of Terms. (para 4.2)

1. ICAO Language Proficiency Operational Level

The FAA AELS minimum acceptable level to be considered English proficient and/or receive an “English Proficient” certificate endorsement.

2. FAA AELS Evaluator

... an evaluator is any individual ... authorized to conduct certification, training, testing, or checking, or to issue an endorsement required by the regulations.

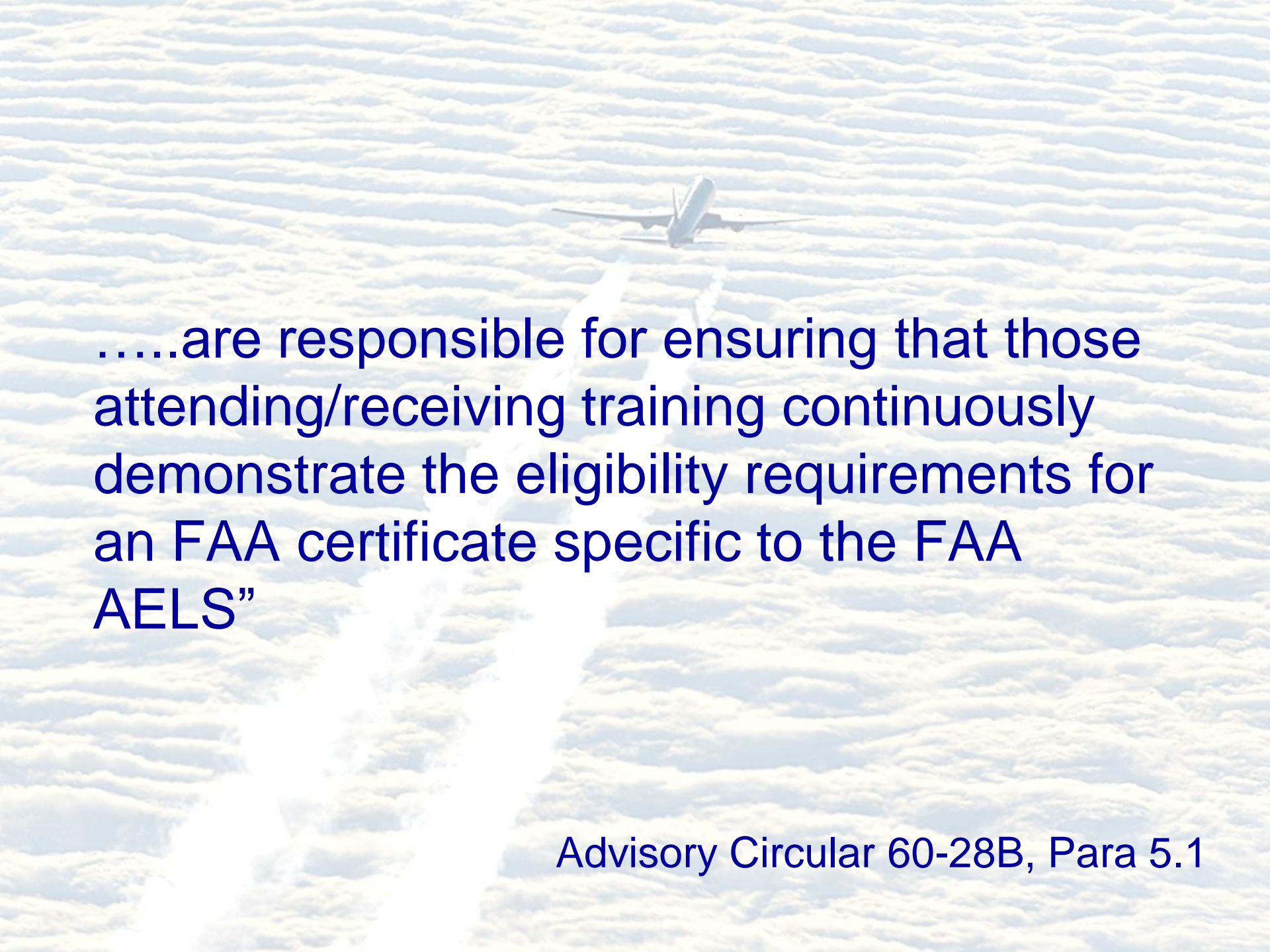
Persons and Organizations Responsible for Continuously Monitoring AEELS.

- FAA personnel
- DE's
- Flight and ground instructors
- Training Center Evaluators (TCE),
- Check FEs/
- Check pilots
- Training facilities

- Flight schools.



Advisory Circular 60-28B, Para 5.1



.....are responsible for ensuring that those attending/receiving training continuously demonstrate the eligibility requirements for an FAA certificate specific to the FAA AEELS”

Advisory Circular 60-28B, Para 5.1

Planning an FAA AEELS Evaluation



“AEELS evaluators should develop multiple plans of action to conduct an AEELS evaluation.

This will ensure that their evaluation does not become predictable.”

Advisory Circular 60-28B, Paragraph 6.2

Assessment and Testing Examples



- Assess the individual's ability to meet the FAA regulatory English language eligibility requirements for the respective FAA certificate. Below are testing examples that can be used during the assessment, which must be tailored to meet the expectations of the certificate held.

8900.1 CHG 566
5-1912 Paragraph D



...Also, AELS evaluators must access the following ICAO language proficiency website that provides audio of the various ICAO English language levels in order to familiarize themselves with the ICAO English Language Proficiency (ELP) operational levels so they can best accomplish the FAA AELS evaluation:

<http://cfapp.icao.int/rssta/RSSTA.cfm>

8900.1 CHG 566
5-1912 Paragraph D

Assessment and Testing Examples

1) As part of the process, engage the individual in conversation.

2) Ask the individual to read from aviation materials.

Ask the individual to explain and write down what he or she read.

3) For pilots and instructors, have the individual listen to ATC instructions and explain what he or she hears.

4) Listen, observe, and ask yourself:

8900.1 CHG 566
5-1912 Paragraph D

...Examples

- Can the individual read English?
- Can the individual write English?
- Does the individual understand and follow your verbal conversation?
- From the individual's explanation of what he or she read, could you understand him or her without undue focus on his or her pronunciation and speech?

8900.1 CHG 566
5-1912 Paragraph D

...Examples



- Will his or her English skills enable him or her
 - to communicate effectively with ATC,
 - understand and comply with ATC instructions,
 - communicate with others involved in the preparation of an aircraft for flight and/or in the conduct of flight, and
 - provide effective communication and crew coordination as needed?

8900.1 CHG 566
5-1912 Paragraph D

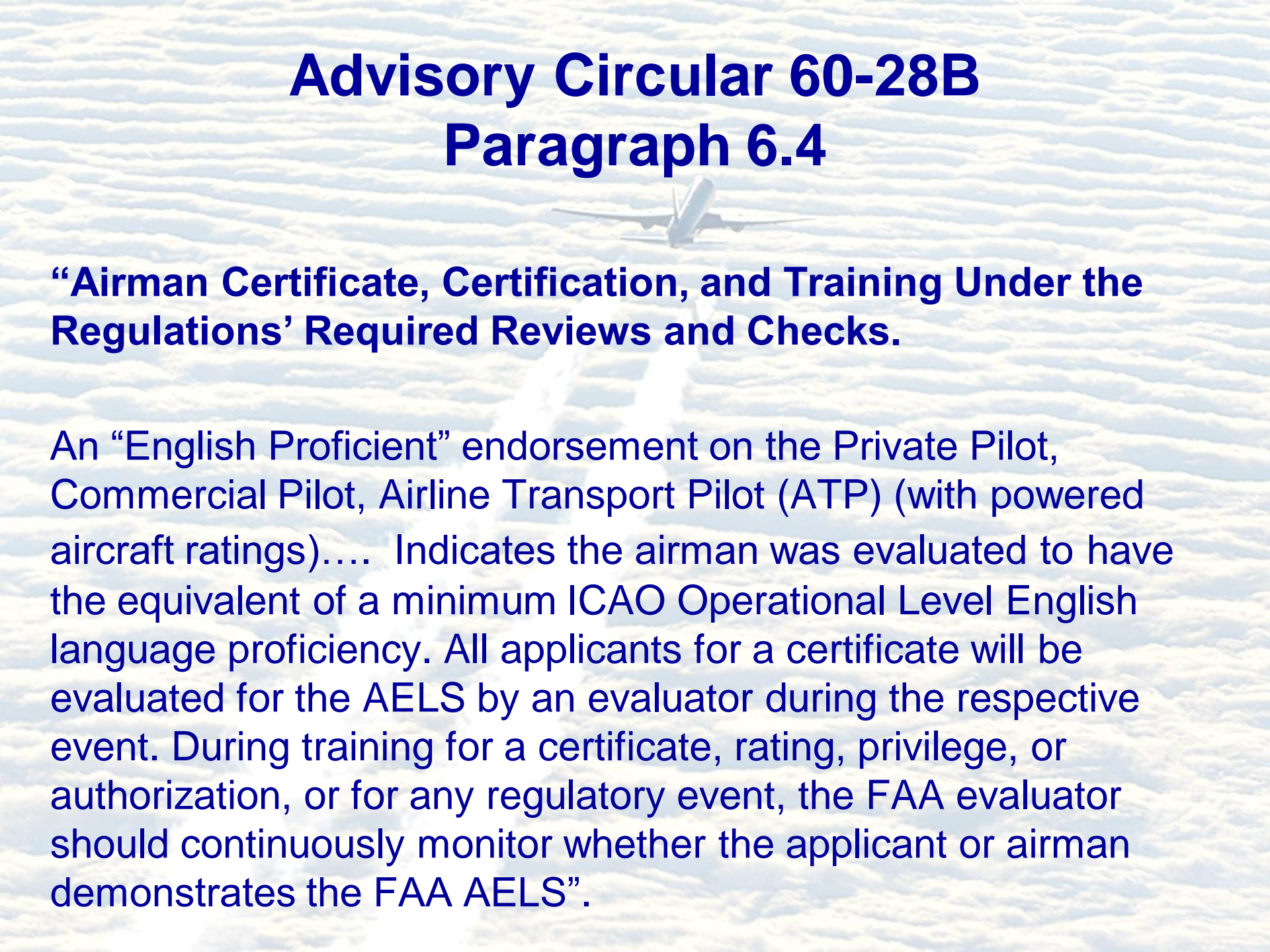
...Examples

- Did the individual explain/respond to questions that de

8900.1 CHG 566
5-1912 Paragraph D

Advisory Circular 60-28B

Paragraph 6.4



“Airman Certificate, Certification, and Training Under the Regulations’ Required Reviews and Checks.

An “English Proficient” endorsement on the Private Pilot, Commercial Pilot, Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) (with powered aircraft ratings).... Indicates the airman was evaluated to have the equivalent of a minimum ICAO Operational Level English language proficiency. All applicants for a certificate will be evaluated for the AEELS by an evaluator during the respective event. During training for a certificate, rating, privilege, or authorization, or for any regulatory event, the FAA evaluator should continuously monitor whether the applicant or airman demonstrates the FAA AEELS”.

Advisory Circular 60-28B

Paragraph A.2.1.1



- “It is of major importance that FAA personnel, training facilities, and individuals authorized to conduct evaluations, training, testing, checking, or certification activities all share the responsibility to ensure that all applicants for an FAA certificate or individuals who hold FAA certificates continually demonstrate that they meet the FAA AELS.
- Otherwise, the individual may be subject to a reexamination in accordance with Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.) § 44709.”



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