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

Rick Valdes
formerly United Airlines

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The FAA
Aviation English Language Standard

A REVIEW

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Capt. Rick Valdes
United Airlines (retired)
Former IFALPA Representative to ICAO PRICESG.
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
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
Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 61 applies to pilots, flight instructors, ground instructors:

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?

ENGLISH PROFICIENT.
US Pilots License validity

• All FAA pilots licenses are valid as long as the physical examination by an approved FAA doctor is current.

• Validity:
  • 1\textsuperscript{st} Class Physical — 6 months
  • 2\textsuperscript{nd} Class Physical — 12 months
  • 3\textsuperscript{rd} 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:
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 a FAA Certificate
“Authorized

• individuals (such as flight instructors)
• organizations, and
• training centers …
... 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......
To ensure that the individual meets the FAA regulatory English language eligibility requirements established under:

Advisory Circular (AC) 60-28 B:
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.
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
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:

http://cfapp.icao.int/rssta/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 AELS.

- 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 AELS”

Advisory Circular 60-28B, Para 5.1
Planning an FAA AELS Evaluation

“AELS evaluators should develop multiple plans of action to conduct an AELS 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.
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/rsstta/RSSTA.cfm
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:
...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?
...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?
...Examples

- Did the individual explain/respond to questions that demonstrated understanding of the English presented in the material?
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 AELS 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 AELS”.

“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.”