

# ICAO RATING SCALE

The Six Skill Areas of ICAO Language Proficiency

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#### PART II: ICAO LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY RATING SCALE (Attache Expert, extended and operational level PRONUNCIATION Assumes a dialect structures and and/or accent sentence patterns are intelligible to the determined by LEVEL aeronautical language functions community. appropriate to the Expert Pronunciation, stress, VOCABULARY rhythm, and Both basic and FUENCY Vocabulary range and intonation, though complex grammatical accuracy are sufficient structures and possibly influenced by to communicate sentence patterns are the first language or offortess flow Votes effectively on a wide consistently well regional variation, speech flow for variety of familiar and controlled. stylistic effect, e.g. to almost never interfere unfamiliar topics. emphasize a point Vocabulary is with ease of Uses appropriate idiomatic, nuanced, understanding. discourse markers and sensitive to connectors register. spontaneously Extended Pronunciation, stress nmatical Vocabulary range and Able to speak at rhythm, and accuracy are sufficient length with relat ease on familia to communicate intonation, though but may not v effectively on influenced by the first speech flow common, concrete, contro language or regional stylistic devi and work-related structure variation, rarely opics. Paraphrases make use attempted t interfere with ease of ate discou sistently and errors which or connec understanding. esfully. sometimes inte with meaning.

## THE SIX SKILL AREAS



- ➤ The ICAO Rating Scale covers the six skill areas of language performance: pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and interaction.
- ➤ For each skill, your performance is rated according to 6 levels. Levels 1 to 3 are considered unfit for use in aviation. Level 3 is therefore called the pre-operational level.
- ➤ Only levels 4 and above are acceptable. Level 4 is called the operational level, 5 the extended and 6 the expert level.

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## THE RATING SCALE - PRE-OPERATIONAL LEVEL 3



#### Pronunciation Structure Interactions Vocabulary Comprehension Fluency Basic grammatical Vocabulary range and Produces stretches of Comprehension is often Pronunciation, stress, Responses are rhythm, and intonation structures and sentence accuracy are often sometimes immediate, language but phrasing accurate on common, are influenced by the sufficient to concrete, and workappropriate and patterns associated and pauses are often with predictable first language or communicate on inappropriate. related topics when the informative. Can Hesitations or slowness accent or variety used is initiate and maintain regional variation, and situations are not common, concrete, and frequently interfere always well controlled. sufficiently intelligible work-related topics but in language processing exchanges with Errors frequently range is limited and reasonable ease on with ease of may prevent effective for an international interfere with meaning. word choice often communication. Can understanding community of users. familiar topics and in May fail to understand make limited use of inappropriate. Is often predictable situations. Generally inadequate discourse markers or a linguistic or unable to paraphrase situational turn of successfully when connectors. Fillers are when dealing with an lacking vocabulary. unexpected turn of sometimes distracting. events. events.

Source: ICAO Doc 9835 AN/453, "Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements", Second Edition, 2010

## THE RATING SCALE - OPERATIONAL LEVEL 4



#### Pronunciation

Pronunciation, stress, are influenced by the first language or regional variation, but only sometimes interfere with ease of understanding

#### Structure

Basic grammatical rhythm, and intonation structures and sentence patterns are used creatively and are usually well controlled. Errors may occur, particularly in unusual or unexpected circumstances, but rarely interfere with meaning.

#### Vocabulary

Vocabulary range and accuracy are usually sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics. Can often paraphrase successfully when lacking vocabulary in unusual or unexpected circumstances

#### Fluency

Produces stretches of language at an appropriate tempo. There may be occasional loss of fluency on transition from rehearsed or formulaic speech to spontaneous interaction, but this does not prevent effective communication. Can make limited use of discourse markers or connectors. Fillers are not distracting.

### Comprehension

Comprehension is mostly accurate on common, concrete, and work-related topics when the accent or variety used is sufficiently intelligible for an international community of users. When the speaker is confronted with a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events, comprehension may be slower or require clarification strategies.

#### Interactions

Responses are usually immediate, appropriate, and informative. Initiates and maintains exchanges even when dealing with an unexpected turn of events. Deals adequately with apparent misunderstandings by checking, confirming, or clarifying.

## THE RATING SCALE - EXTENDED LEVEL 5



Pronunciation	Structure	Vocabulary	Fluency	Comprehension	Interactions
Pronunciation, stress,	Basic grammatical	Vocabulary	Able to speak at	Comprehension	Responses are
rhythm and intonation,	structures and sentence	range and accuracy are	length with relative	is accurate on common,	immediate, appropriate
though influenced by	patterns are	sufficient to	ease on familiar topics	concrete and work-	and informative.
the first language or	consistently well	communicate	but may not vary	related topics and	Manages the speaker/
regional variation,	controlled. Complex	effectively on common,	speech flow as a	mostly accurate	listener relationship
rarely interfere with	structures are	concrete and work-	stylistic device. Can	when the speaker is	effectively.
ease of understanding.	attempted but with	related	make use of appropriate	confronted with a	
	errors which sometimes	topics. Paraphrases	discourse markers or	linguistic or situational	
	interfere with meaning.	consistently and	connectors.	complication or an	
		successfully.		unexpected turn of	
		Vocabulary is		events. Is able to	
		sometimes		comprehend a	
		idiomatic.		range of speech	
				varieties (dialect and/or	
				accent) or registers.	

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## THE RATING SCALE - EXPERT LEVEL 6



Pronunciation Structure Vocabulary Fluency Compreher	
Pronunciation, stress, rhythm and complex grammatical intonation, though possibly influenced by the first language or regional variation, almost never interfere with ease of understanding.  Both basic and Vocabulary range and sentence sufficient to effortless flow. Varies nearly all context sufficient to effortless flow. Varies nearly all context communicate effectively speech flow for stylistic includes comprehensice on a wide variety of effect, e.g. to emphasize comprehensice topics. Vocabulary appropriate discourse subtleties and sensitive to spontaneously.  The pronunciation, structures and sentence sufficient to effortless flow. Varies nearly all context communicate effectively speech flow for stylistic includes comprehensice and unfamiliar a point. Uses linguistic and comprehensice subtleties is idiomatic, nuanced markers and connectors and sensitive to spontaneously.  The pronunciation of the property of t	curate in nearly all situations. Is exts and sensitive to verbal and non-verbal cues and ion of responds to them appropriately.

Source: ICAO Doc 9835 AN/453, "Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements", Second Edition, 2010

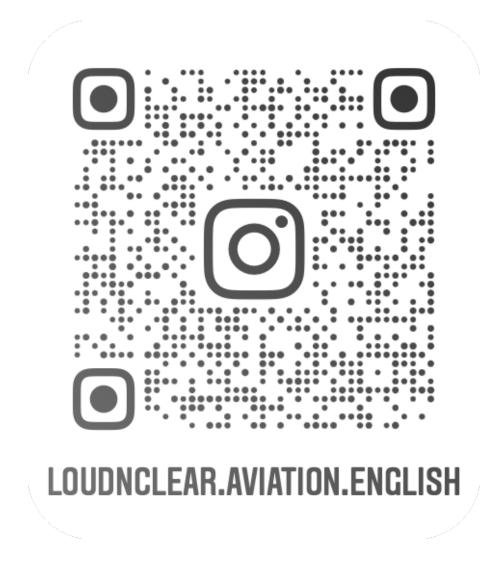


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