

welcome

MLS International English for Aviation Language Training – ICAO 291 LAN ENG

MLS International English for Aviation Language Assessment – ICAO 295 LAN TST

The MLS International English for Aviation Language Test – (MLS EALT)

Further MLS International English for Aviation Services

Welcome to MLS International College

Since its foundation in 1987, MLS International College has been committed to delivering quality English language, academic and professional training programmes to students from all over the World.

Up to 1700 students per year choose our programmes, which are varied and include general, intensive and specialised English courses in a wide range of professional and vocational areas at all levels of language proficiency.

As a family run College we offer a high degree of personal attention to ensure you feel welcome and can achieve the success you deserve in your time at the College. We have 40 classrooms, including IT and digital language laboratory facilities, library and private study areas.

Our corporate client list is extensive and includes companies such as Ernst and Young, Sumitomo, Shell Oil, Bertelsmann, Siemens, the Turkish Government, Ukrainian State Air Traffic Services. A full list of our clients and extensive details on all our programmes are available in the brochures shown right.

Please contact us for further information at our main address on final page.



Introduction

To address safety concerns raised by accidents and incidents in which communication has played a key role, in addition to their specialised procedural language and radio-telephone communication skills, ANSP and flight crew personnel operating in international civil aviation must acquire and maintain a proficiency in plain English in an aviation context equivalent to Level 4 or higher on the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale.*

This proficiency must be demonstrated by performance in a certified test of English language for aviation purposes recognised as valid, appropriate and effective by the national regulatory authority of the country where the professional licence is issued.



As a continuation of its 20-year involvement with the international civil aviation community in the provision of effective and reliable language training and assessment services, MLS International College has been successfully providing intensive English for Aviation language training and assessment programmes to meet the revised language requirements since their ratification by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization in March 2003.

With training and assessment resources developed in collaboration with industry to ensure the relevance and accuracy of their content, MLS International recognises the complexities faced by organisations in meeting the ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements. MLS International provides the comprehensive English for Aviation language training programme (ICAO 291 LAN ENG) and English for Aviation Language Test (ICAO 295 LAN TST) to serve industry needs.

Who would benefit from the English for Aviation language training and assessment services provided by MLS International?

- National Supervisory / Licensing Authorities
- Air Navigation Service Providers
- Airline Operators
- Flight training centres
- ATC training centres
- English language colleges involved in the language training and assessment of aviation personnel

Quality Assurance

MLS International has been delivering English for Aviation training and assessment programmes since 1986. We are the preferred language training and assessment provider of NATS UK for non-native English speakers following their ab initio and OTJ professional training. Our association with and recognition by many language industry bodies (British Council, RELSA, English UK, Business English UK) provide important validation of the services we offer.

Our lengthening client list is the guarantee of the quality of our English for Aviation programmes. We believe that there is no higher recommendation available than that of the national and international air navigation service providers and airline operators who entrust us with the high-stakes language training and assessment of their personnel as they seek to satisfy the ICAO requirements.

*In March 2003, the ICAO Council adopted the ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements relating to the language proficiency in international civil aviation. With these amendments, the achievement and demonstration of Operational Level 4 of the ICAO Rating Scale and the meeting of the standards detailed in the accompanying Holistic descriptors is mandatory for all air traffic controllers and pilots involved in international traffic. Annex 1 — Personnel Licensing, Annex 6 — Operation of Aircraft, Annex 10 — Aeronautical Telecommunications, Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services, and Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444)

MLS International English for Aviation Programmes

English for Aviation Language Training

ICAO 291 LAN ENG

Designed to meet the English-language training requirements of flight crew and ANSP personnel, MLS International College offers a series of short-course certificate programmes in aviation-based professional English-language communication skills up to ICAO Operational Level 4 and beyond at our training centre in Bournemouth, England.

Our short-course certificate programmes are the best way to revise, consolidate and extend language gains and overall proficiency and to maximise a candidate's language potential prior to their taking a recognised test of English for Aviation such as the MLS EALT.*

Total language immersion training in which the candidates study and live in the country and culture of speakers of the target language has been proven, many times over, to be the most effective and efficient ways to acquire a language. Our programmes offer a minimum of 30 academic hours per week

Specialised Nature

The MLS International English for Aviation curriculum has been devised to meet the specific training objectives of flight crew and air traffic controllers. At all levels, trainees are encouraged to broaden their range of effective professional and operational communication skills. The programmes of tuition provide instruction and practice in the day-to-day language skills necessary for personnel in posts related to international civil aviation and air traffic management. Language acquisition through active participation in practical coursework is considered fundamental to the learning process.

Absorbing, stimulating and wide-ranging in its delivery and content, the specialized training in English language aviation vocabulary, terminology and phraseology has as its focus the development of an increased understanding of the functional communication skills required by aviation personnel for the safe and effective management of international flights.

Although the specialised components of our English for Aviation programmes are set firmly in the context of the operational environment, are designed for operational personnel and consistently reflect language use in professional situations, the focus of the programme is on effective communication, not on operational procedures.



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Specialised Content

The specialist element of the full 48-week MLS International English for Aviation programme includes the following:

- The language of aerodrome communications
- The language of en-route communications
- Pilot / controller & controller / controller interactions
- Triggering actions in aeronautical communications
- Sharing information in aeronautical communications
- Incident reporting in aeronautical communications
- Aviation related lexis
- Miscellaneous language of aeronautical communications

Programme Objective

The overall objective of the English for Aviation language training programme is to develop in those attending the communication skills that will enable them to handle successfully, effectively and with relative ease in voice-only (telephone/radiotelephone) and in face-to-face situations the linguistic challenges presented in routine work situations or by a complication or unexpected turn of events that occurs within the context of a routine work situation or communicative task with which they are otherwise familiar.

Further details available on request.

* MLS EALT English for Aviation Language Test, recognised by an increasing number of national regulatory authorities as appropriate, valid, reliable and effective in the assessment of English proficiency for the purposes of aeronautical communications in accordance with the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale, its accompanying Holistic Descriptors and all published ICAO Standards & Recommended Practices (SARPs).





English for Aviation Language Assessment ICAO 295LAN TST

The MLS International English for Aviation Language Test (MLS EALT) is a test of English language proficiency in the context of aviation specifically developed in response to the ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements and their supporting standards and recommended practices (SARPs). It has been designed by language training specialists, language assessment specialists and subject matter experts in direct response to ICAO guidelines as a comprehensive testing system in which the demonstration of a candidate's actual listening and speaking ability is required. MLS International currently provides English for Aviation assessment services to airline operators and air navigation service providers of a number of ICAO Member States, including the UK, by the mechanism of the MLS EALT, thus providing important industry validation.

The MLS EALT has been specifically designed for flight crew and air traffic control personnel requiring the assessment and certification of their language in accordance with the ICAO March 2008 standard. The MLS EALT allows aviation personnel to demonstrate their proficiency in the English language in the context of aviation and aeronautical communications. Although set in the context of the operational environment, designed for operational personnel and reflecting language use in professional situations, the focus of the test is on language proficiency, not on operational procedures.

The MLS EALT assesses plain spoken English language with a distinct aviation focus in work-related contexts. It allows for interaction with both native and non-native English speakers and includes assessed comprehension of a range of speech registers and varieties (dialects and accents) intelligible to the aeronautical community. The MLS EALT does not expect

its candidates to demonstrate mother-tongue language use, but assesses the six features of language identified in the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale primarily to the extent that they may interfere with effective oral communication.

The MLS EALT is an appropriate valid, reliable and effective test for use by the aviation industry in the language proficiency assessment of its personnel. The test consists of two Papers, a Paper 1: Listening and a Paper 2: Speaking. Both Papers are administered by MLS International approved examiners, with the final grading of the test performance being completed by MLS International accredited assessors in accordance with the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale and its accompanying Holistic Descriptors.

The MLS EALT assesses across the full range of ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale (Level 1: Pre-elementary-Level 6: Expert) and in each of the six discrete features of language (pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, interactions).

The MLS EALT has been developed with detailed reference to ICAO Doc 9835: Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements and is fully compliant with all published ICAO SARPs and associated material. Incorporating specialist input from qualified and experienced aviation professionals, language trainers, and language assessors, the test format and tasks also reflect the very latest results of research in oral language assessment.

The MLS EALT is an appropriate valid and effective tool for obtaining from candidates a gradable language sample from which can be made accurate and reliable assessments of language proficiency for professional licensing purposes in accordance with the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale and its accompanying Holistic Descriptors. (See p.10)

Further details available on request.

The MLS International English for Aviation Language Test (MLS EALT)

MLS EALT Paper 1: Listening Comprehension

The MLS EALT Paper 1: Listening assesses a candidate's comprehension across a range of professionally-related communications in both routine and non-routine situations. There are separate listening tests for flight crew and air traffic controllers.

The recordings used in Paper 1: Listening range from short standard transmissions to longer communications and are a combination of simulated and authentic radio-telephone and telephone communications concerning routine, non-routine and unexpected events.

Through a series of tasks, Paper 1: Listening tests the accuracy of the candidate's comprehension in common, concrete and work-related communications as well as his/her level of understanding when confronted with a situational complication or unexpected turn of events.

MLS EALT Paper 1: Listening lasts approximately 40 minutes.

MLS EALT Paper 2: Speaking

Candidates take the MLS EALT Paper 2: Speaking in pairs. They may know each other, or they may never have met before. If there are an uneven number of candidates sitting the test in any one session, the final test interview of the session will be with a single candidate.

There are two examiners, an interlocutor and an assessor. The interlocutor asks the questions, instructs the candidates and sets the test tasks. The assessor does not take part in the interaction. The interview is recorded.

Paper 2: Speaking assesses the language proficiency of the candidate (controller or pilot) in three distinct parts and includes elements of both face-to-face and voice-only communication. There are separate scenarios for flight crew and air traffic controllers, and there are further separate scenarios for Tower, En Route and Approach controllers.

During the assessment, a candidate will interact both with the interlocutor and the partner candidate.

MLS EALT Paper 2: Speaking lasts approximately 20 minutes.



Assessment Objective

The overall objective of the MLS EALT is to assess the extent to which the language proficiency demonstrated by a candidate will enable him/her to handle successfully, effectively and with relative ease in voice-only (telephone/radiotelephone) and in face-to-face situations the linguistic challenges presented in routine work situations or by a complication or unexpected turn of events that occurs within the context of a routine work situation or communicative task with which he/she is otherwise familiar.

Certification for Professional Licensing Purposes

Candidates who have been formally assessed by means of the MLS EALT will receive, within two weeks of the assessment, their certificate of achievement. In the event of a candidate having been sponsored by their employer, a copy of the certificate will be simultaneously forwarded to the sponsor.

Further details available on request



Further MLS International English for Aviation Services

In addition to our English for Aviation language training and assessment services, MLS International is pleased to offer the following services in the area of English for Aviation.

MLS International English for Aviation Language Consultancy

The MLS International English for Aviation consultancy work has grown out of our close relationships with our clients and our understanding of the complexities they face in complying with the ICAO requirements. Our expert consultants work together with Human Resource and Training Managers to assist them in analysing their language requirements, in exploring the training and assessment options available and in achieving their language objectives.

Consultancy can include:

- Inspections of language training departments, facilities and resources
- Audit of General English language and English for Aviation language proficiencies
- Diagnostic language assessment, screening and evaluation of personnel
- Needs analysis for language training
- Feasibility studies including financial / budget forecasts
- Training and assessment strategy development: developing a plan for ICAO compliance
- Developing training plans and schedules including financial and budget forecasts
- English for Aviation programme development
- English for Aviation syllabus, curriculum and course design
- English for Aviation materials and resource development
- English for Aviation trainer and assessor training
- Monitoring & evaluation of language programmes including report-writing and feedback

Consultancy can also include guidance on the selection of published General English teaching materials and resources for supportive language training for ICAO Level 1 Pre-Elementary and Level 2 Elementary English language learners.

Training the English for Aviation Language Trainers

An efficient way for an organisation to meet the ICAO language requirements and to develop language training autonomy is by increasing its overall training capacity. The MLS International English for Aviation Teacher Training Programme upgrades the skills of aviation and teaching professionals and provides them with the competencies required to deliver effective English language training to ANSP and flight crew personnel.

Training the English for Aviation Examiners: Interlocutors and Assessors

A further step an organisation may take to meet the ICAO language requirements and to develop autonomy in language assessment is to develop and certify its own English for Aviation examiners. The MLS International English for Aviation Examiner Training Programme upgrades the skills of aviation and teaching professionals and provides them with the competencies required to administer language testing and assess language proficiency in accordance with the ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale and its accompanying Holistic Descriptors.

Further details of all the MLS International English for Aviation services are available on request.



Useful References

ICAO Doc 9835 (First Edition 2004)
Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements

ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements
– Rated Speech Samples
www.icao.int Order No. AUD001 ICAO 2006

ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements
– Frequently Asked Questions http://www.icao.int/cgi/goto_m_anb.pl?icao/en/trivia/peltrgFAQ.htm



MLS International College
Westover Chambers
Hinton Road
Bournemouth
BH1 2EN
England
Tel: + 44 1202 291556
Fax: + 44 1202 293846
e-mail: admin@mls-college.co.uk
www.mls-college.co.uk