# ICAO English language proficiency for air traffic service personnel (CD 2301AS)

# Overview

We are seeking your feedback on our plan to formally adopt International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) English language proficiency standards for air traffic service (ATS) personnel.

Clear and unambiguous voice communications are essential for safe operations in aviation. For this reason, ICAO developed standards and brought them into effect in 2008. Since that time, Australia’s national ATS provider, Airservices Australia, has voluntarily adopted the ICAO standards for use by its staff.

We are proposing to formally integrate them into the Part 65 Manual of Standards (MOS) to better demonstrate compliance with the ICAO standard.

The standards apply to:

* anyone who performs an air traffic control (ATC) or flight service function under Part 65 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (CASR)
* current or future applicants for an ATC or flight service licence.

They are based on ICAO standards specified in Annex 1 to the Chicago Convention, but use terms and procedures specified in Part 61 of CASR (Flight crew licensing).

We anticipate the amendment being in place by the end of July 2023.

### Principal changes that would occur

We propose to issue a legislative instrument amending the Part 65 MOS to the effect:

* A language proficiency assessment for an air traffic controller or flight service officer to be known as an ‘aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment’.
* A person can apply for an assessment of the person’s aviation English language proficiency (AELP).
* The applicant passes the assessment if they meet the ICAO level 4, 5 or 6 AELP standards mentioned in the Part 61 MOS.
* A person’s AELP assessment is current as follows:
  + the person was assessed as meeting the ICAO level 6 AELP standards—indefinitely
  + the person was assessed as meeting the ICAO level 5 AELP standards—for 6 years beginning on the day the assessment is conducted
  + the person was assessed as meeting the ICAO level 4 AELP standards—for 3 years beginning on the day the assessment is conducted.
* The holder of an ATC or flight service licence must not carry out an air traffic control or flight service function if they do not hold a current aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment.
* An ATS provider must ensure that the holder of an ATC or a flight service licence does not perform a function for the ATS provider if they do not hold a current aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment.
* A person with an existing and current ICAO Annex 1 or AELP assessment is taken to hold a current aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment.

# Why your views matter

Your feedback will help us make sure the final instrument is clear and will work as intended.

Please submit your comments on CD 2301AS using the survey link on this page.

If you are unable to provide feedback via the survey link, please email [regulatoryconsultation@casa.gov.au](mailto:regulatoryconsultation@casa.gov.au)

## **Documents for review**

All documents related to this consultation are attached in the ‘Related’ section at the bottom of the overview page. They are:

* Summary of proposed change on CD 2301AS, which provides background on the proposed standards
* Consultation draft of Instrument – *Part 65 (Air Traffic Services Licensing) Amendment Manual of Standards 2023*
* MS Word copy of online consultation for ease of distribution and feedback within your organisation.

### What happens next

At the end of the response period, we will:

* review all comments received
* make responses publicly available on the consultation hub (unless you request your submission remain confidential)
* publish a Summary of Consultation which summarises the feedback received and outlines any intended changes and next steps.

Feedback that improves the proposed change will be incorporated into the final policy.

# **Give Us Your Views** [Appears on the overview page at the bottom]

Online Survey [This link is on the front page of the survey and takes you to the survey questions]

# **Related Documents**

* Summary of proposed change on CD 2301AS
* Consultation draft of Instrument - *Part 65 (Air Traffic Services Licensing) Amendment Manual of Standards 2023*
* MS Word copy of online consultation - Proposed amendment to include ICAO English language proficiency standards in the Part 65 Manual of standards (CD 2301AS)

# **Audience & Interest groups**

**Audience**

CASA staff

Air traffic controller/s

Flight service officer/s

Air traffic service providers

**Interest**

Licensing

# Page 1. Comments on the proposed changes

If you intend to comment on the proposed changes, we will ask you for:

* **personal information**, such as your name, any organisation you represent, and your email address
* **your consent** to publish your submission
* **your responses** to the proposed changes in the regulations
* **any comments** you may want to provide
* **demographic information** to help us understand your interest in the changes.

Our [website](https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public)<https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public>, contains more information on making a submission and what we do with your feedback.

# Page 2. Personal information

## First name

(Required)

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## Last name

(Required)

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## Email address

If you enter your email address, you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

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## Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

## (Required)

Please select only one item

Yes, I am authorised to submit feedback on behalf of an organisation

No, these are my personal views.

If yes, please specify the name of your organisation.

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Which of the following best describes the group you represent?

Please select all items that apply.

Air traffic controller

Flight service officer

Air traffic service provider

Other

Please specify ‘Other’ if selected.

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# Page 3. Consent to publish submission

To provide transparency and promote debate, we intend to publish all responses to this consultation. This may include both detailed responses/submissions in full and aggregated data drawn from the responses received.

Where you consent to publication, we will include:

* **your last name** if the submission is made by you as an individual
* **the name of the organisation** on whose behalf the submission has been made
* **your responses** and comments

We **will not** include any other personal or demographic information in a published response

Do you give permission for your response to be published?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

Yes - I give permission for my response/submission to be published.

No - I would like my response/submission to remain confidential but understand that de-identified aggregate data may be published.

I am a CASA officer.

Information about how we consult and how to make a confidential submission is available on our [**website**](http://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public)< www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public >.

# Page 4. Proposed amendment to the Part 65 Manual of Standards

The proposed amendment to the Part 65 Manual of Standards (MOS) is detailed in the consultation draft of *Part 65 (Air Traffic Services Licensing) Amendment Manual of Standards 2023* (included with this consultation).

We propose to issue a legislative instrument amending the Part 65 MOS to the effect:

* A language proficiency assessment for an air traffic controller (ATC) or flight service officer to be known as an aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment.
* A person can apply for an assessment of their aviation English language proficiency (AELP).
* An applicant passes the assessment if they meet the ICAO level 4, 5 or 6 AELP standards as specified in the Part 61 MOS.
* A person’s AELP assessment is considered current as follows:
  + the person was assessed as meeting the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) level 6 AELP standards—indefinitely
  + the person was assessed as meeting the ICAO level 5 AELP standards—for 6 years beginning on the day the assessment is conducted
  + the person was assessed as meeting the ICAO level 4 AELP standards—for 3 years beginning on the day the assessment is conducted.
* The holder of an air traffic control (ATC) or flight service licence must not carry out an air traffic control or flight service function if they do not hold a current aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment.
* An air traffic service (ATS) provider must ensure that the holder of an ATC or flight service licence does not perform a function for the ATS provider if they do not hold a current aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment.
* A person with an existing and current ICAO Annex 1 or AELP assessment is taken to hold a current aviation English language proficiency (Part 65) assessment.

## Do you have any comments about the proposed amendment?

Please include in these comments any **impact** this change may have on you or your operation.

Comments

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