

The ICAEA logo consists of the acronym 'ICAEA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a stylized yellow graphic element that resembles a curved arrow or a wing, pointing upwards and to the right.

International Civil Aviation English Association

# Do you know what Level 4 is?

## Assessing pilot/controller communication

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# Assessing controller/pilot communications

## *Part 1*

- ◆ RSSTA – an ICAO tool to improve language proficiency assessment
- ◆ The ICAO Rating Scale
- ◆ The Critical Boundary

## *Part 2*

- ◆ Exercise on Assessment
- ◆ Rater Reliability

# ICAO RSSTA

## Rated Speech Sample Training Aid An overview

# ICAO RSSTA

Developed for ICAO, by the International Civil Aviation English Association (ICAEA), with a panel of international academic, linguistic, testing and operational experts.

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# ICAO RSSTA

Designed to:

- ◆ Raise awareness of what is an acceptable or unacceptable level of English for communication between pilots and controllers
- ◆ Provide examples of performance at ICAO levels 3-6
- ◆ Serve as an accurate and reliable reference for users

# ICAO RSSTA

Designed to:

- ◆ Promote rating standardisation between different raters and test service providers across the world
- ◆ Act as a training tool for initial and recurrent training of raters
- ◆ Support ICAO's efforts to enhance language proficiency test standards

# ICAO RSSTA

## Development:

- ◆ 75 raters from 23 countries took part in the rating exercises
- ◆ The raters came from both operational and language backgrounds and assessed over 210 samples of language

# ICAO RSSTA

Comprises:

- ◆ Speakers from a number of different language groups
- ◆ A variety of samples at ICAO levels 3, 4 & 5
- ◆ A dedicated internet facility for streaming audio samples, or direct content download

# <http://cfapp.icao.int/rssta/>



## Rated Speech Samples Developed for ICAO by ICAEA



**Notes:** • Samples can be reorganised by clicking on the table headings (task description, professional background, etc)  
 • Samples can be played from this page OR opened in a separate window by clicking the sample file name, where they can be downloaded as well

	<b>File Name</b>	<b>Task Description</b>	<b>Professional Background</b>	<b>First Language</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>I</b>
		related discussion questions.									
12	L3Russian4 	This is a face-to-face discussion task. The interlocutor asks the candidate a series of work-related discussion questions.	Pilot	Russian	03:02	4	3	3	3	3	3
13	L3Russian5 	This is a face-to-face discussion task. The interlocutor asks the candidate a series of work-related discussion questions.	Pilot	Russian	06:22	3	3	3	3	3	4
14	L3Russian6 	In this task, the candidate gives the interlocutor a post flight briefing.	Pilot	Russian	02:56	4	3	4	3	NR	NR
15	L3Russian7 	In this task, the candidate describes a picture and then responds to discussion prompts presented by the interlocutor.	Pilot	Russian	03:59	4	4	4	3	4	4
16	L4Arabic1 	In this task, the candidate hears a series of pilot and air traffic control radio transmissions, and explains what he thinks is happening after each transmission.	ATC	Arabic	04:32	4	4	4	4	4	4
17	L4Arabic2 	In this task, the candidate hears a series of pilot and air traffic control radio transmissions, and explains what he thinks is happening after each transmission.	ATC	Arabic	03:48	4	4	4	4	4	4
18	L4Arabic3 	In this task, the candidate describes two pictures and responds to discussion prompts presented by the interlocutor.	ATC	Arabic	02:10	4	4	4	4	NR	4

# ICAO RSSTA

## CAUTION 1

- ◆ The speech samples contained in the training aid do not represent complete language tests.
- ◆ A complete language test will contain a variety of tasks that together test the full range of skills in the ICAO rating scale.

# ICAO RSSTA

## CAUTION 2

- ◆ The ratings apply to test taker performances on tasks.
- ◆ The reported scores do not represent a language proficiency rating for the test taker in the sample and should not be interpreted as such.

# ICAO Rating Scale

6 levels of language proficiency for radiotelephony communication

- 1. Pre-elementary
- 2. Elementary
- 3. **Pre-operational**
- 4. **Operational** (minimum required proficiency)
- 5. Extended
- 6. Expert

# ICAO Rating Scale

- ◆ 6 criteria of language assessed at each level
  - ◆ *Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension and Interactions*
- ◆ All criteria have equal value
- ◆ Final rating is not the average of the language skills (criteria) but the lowest

*ICAO Doc 9835 Manual on the Implementation of ICAO  
Language Proficiency Requirements*

# The Critical Boundary

## Level 3:

- ◆ interferes with meaning, unable to paraphrase, hesitant, distracting use of fillers, fails to understand or interact with an unexpected event.

## Level 4:

- ◆ only sometimes interferes with meaning, able to paraphrase, appropriate pace of delivery, fillers not distracting, able to check and request clarification.

A proficient speaker communicates effectively when the occasion demands, only using plain language when standard phraseology cannot be applied

THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS?

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