

Air Navigation Services

# Safety BITes

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Department of Civil Aviation Malaysia  
Air Traffic Inspectorate Division  
[safetybites@dca.gov.my](mailto:safetybites@dca.gov.my)

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### ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY :

### Implementation of *Operational Level 4* with validity 3 years only – no sub scales with 1 year or 2 years validity

**29 FEBRUARY 2016**

In March 2003, ICAO Council adopted a comprehensive set of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) to strengthen language proficiency requirements (LPRs) for pilots and air traffic controllers (ATCOs) involved in international operations. Like most ICAO Member States, Malaysia is compliant with, and has implemented the ICAO LPRs [reference ICAO Rating Scale (*Appendix 1 and Attachment A to ICAO Annex 1- Personnel Licensing*)] since 5 March 2008.

The ICAO Rating Scale delineates six (6) levels of proficiency ranging from ***Pre-elementary (Level 1)*** to ***Expert (Level 6)*** with *Operational Level 4* descriptors developed as the safest minimum proficiency skill level for aeronautical radiotelephony communications, and those demonstrating language proficiency at the *Operational Level 4* should be evaluated at least once every three (3) years.

However, for Malaysian ATCOs, the implementation of subscales within the ICAO *Operational Level 4* constitutes Malaysia's pro-active action in the monitoring of the standards of the ELP among ATCOs. This has enabled Malaysia to ensure that language proficiency loss (to *Pre-operational Level 3*) does not impact greatly on human resources in the provision of air traffic services.

**Effective 01 June 2016, the practice and award of Level 4 subscales with 1 year and 2 years validity will cease to be implemented on 31 May 2016.**

**Further information :** In case of any query, please contact the Air Traffic Inspectorate Division: [safetybites@dca.gov.my](mailto:safetybites@dca.gov.my)