



ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY POLICY

Guidelines for implementing MOSP2 requirements for assessing English language proficiency for foreign pilots.

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Revision History

Date	Version	Author	Description
14/4/2025	1.0	A. Davison	Initial draft, based on proposal from Stuart Trist

Introduction

The safety record at the Gliding Club of Victoria is something we are very proud of as a club. In our (nearly) 100 years of operations, the number of incidents has been remarkably low for a sport aviation organisation.

Increasingly our club is being visited by pilots from overseas, seeking to experience the wonderful flying conditions we experience at Benalla – the open plains to our North-West, and the hills to our east represent an attractive and challenging variety of flying experiences that is not available in other countries, and sometimes in other local clubs.

This increased visiting traffic brings with it risks, predominantly associated with:

- Lack of experience in local flying conditions (navigation, weather and local hazards)
- Lack of proficiency in the English language

Local Experience

The first point, we are able to mitigate and manage through the implementation of rigorous Club induction, educating potential pilots on:

- the situations they will likely encounter at GCV.
- the local club requirements regarding access to facilities and airside; and
- the local club requirements regarding ground handling practices.

English Language Proficiency

The second point is dealt with in MOSP 2 by providing the high-level approach for managing proficiency. At the time of writing, MOSP 2 indicates:

- Pilots possessing an ICAO AELP 4 credential or higher are considered to have a sufficiently high level of English proficiency to operate independently of club observation
- All other pilots are required to demonstrate their proficiency in communicating using the English language to a club instructor with a Gliding Australia Level 1 Instructor rating (or higher).

The second point is not elaborated upon, leaving it to the instructor to determine and thus assume the associated risks of endorsing a pilot's proficiency.

These guidelines provide a standard framework for language evaluation to be conducted in a volunteer environment and provide a pathway for visiting pilots to enjoy their flight experience in Australia as they gain proficiency with local conditions.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ALEP	<p>Aviation English Language Proficiency.</p> <p>Assessed on a scale from 1-6. Level 4 is considered the minimum requirement for a variety of flight endorsements, including recreational, private and commercial pilots, air transport police, flight engineers and air traffic controllers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1 – Pre-Elementary • Level 2 – Elementary • Level 3 – Pre-Operational • Level 4 – Operational (minimum for PPL, CPL or ATPL – retest in 3 years) • Level 5 – Extended (retest in 6 years) • Level 6 – Expert (no further retest required)
GELP	<p>General English Language Proficiency.</p> <p>This test is a CASA requirement for all student pilots, assessing a person’s everyday use of English. It is aimed at people who are either just starting their flying training or want to be able to use aviation air-band radios.</p> <p>This test does not evaluate knowledge of aviation terminology.</p>
Visiting Student Pilot	A Pilot who has undergone ab initio training but have not yet attained a solo rating at GCV.
Visiting Solo Student Pilot	A Pilot who has been previously endorsed by GCV instructors to fly solo under the supervision of a GCV Level 2 instructor within glide distance of the Benalla Aerodrome
Visiting Independent Pilot	A Pilot who has been previously endorsed by Gliding Australia as an independent operator holding a current GPC

Visiting Pilots Categorisation

GCV recognises that we have pilots with a wide variety of experience wishing to enjoy the local flying conditions we experience at Benalla. To simplify our determination of our obligations to maintain our culture of safety, we define the following categories of visitor.

1) Visiting Student Pilot

A Pilot who has undergone ab initio training but have not yet attained a solo rating at GCV.

2) Visiting Solo Student Pilot

A Pilot who has been previously endorsed by GCV instructors to fly solo under the supervision of a GCV Level 2 instructor within glide distance of the Benalla Aerodrome

3) Visiting Independent Pilot

A Pilot who has been previously endorsed by Gliding Australia as an independent operator holding a current GPC

The currency status of a visiting pilot is maintained only for a single season. First time visitors must complete the required testing prior to booking any facilities or services at GCV.

For subsequent seasons pilots will be re-assessed by a GCV instructor to determine their current standing as a visiting pilot to the club. This may be carried out in person on arrival at the club, or via video remotely prior to departing for Benalla. This ensures we are allowing for students to demonstrate progress, establishing the currency of visitors and managing the expectations of senior pilots.

Visiting Pilots Process

Prior to visiting the Gliding Club of Victoria, a student must demonstrate a level of English Proficiency commensurate with the activities they intend to be undertaking whilst visiting the club. This will be carried out via Zoom or other online meeting to be advised, with a GCV instructor who was educated or has worked extensively in an English-speaking country and demonstrates ICAO Level 6 proficiency.

Proficiency Requirements for Visiting Student Pilots

Part 1: Testing

As per CAS GELP requirements, the student must demonstrate results of at least:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) general or academic training module overall grade of 5.5, with no individual grade in a paper lower than 5
- Test of English for International Communication-Secure Program (TOEIC-Secure Program/ Public Testing Centre with grades not less than:
 - 350 for listening
 - 300 for reading
 - 160 for speaking
 - 140 for writing
- Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT): grade no less than 71
- Test of English as a Foreign Language computer-based test (TOEFL CBT): grade no less than 197
- Test of English as a Foreign Language paper-based test (TOEFL PB) with a grade no less than 530
- assessed by a CASA approved assessor as meeting the requirements of Schedule 2 of the CASR Part 61 MOS.

Part 2: Interview

The Interview with the club assessor will take 20 to 30 minutes. There may be a fee associated with this interview.

The interview will assess the student's ability to:

- pronounce words clearly, using an accent that is not difficult to understand
- convey information in clearly structured sentences without confusion or ambiguity
- use vocabulary to accurately communicate on general and technical topics without excessive use of:
 - jargon
 - slang
 - colloquial language
- speak fluently without long pauses, repetition or excessive false starts
- respond to communications with actions that show that they have understood
- exchange information clearly in a variety of situations with both expert and non-expert English speakers while giving and receiving timely and appropriate responses
- use techniques such as questioning, non-verbal communication and paraphrasing to validate communications.
- The student will not be tested on aviation terminology.

Proficiency Requirements for Visiting Solo Student Pilots

Visiting Solo Student Pilots must provide evidence of English language testing as described for Visiting Student Pilots.

The interview for Visiting Solo Student Pilots will test the same criteria as described for Visiting Student Pilots, with the addition of:

All of the requirements of a Visiting Student Pilot above, plus:

- The student will be asked to give examples of radio calls that would be expected in daily operations at the airfield
- The student will be asked to explain the intent of a number of air radio announcements that they might expect to respond to in daily operations at the airfield.

In addition to this, the Duty Instructor are authorised to limit a student's flying activities, including solo or cross-country flights, if they believe the student's English proficiency is inadequate for that day.

Proficiency Requirements for Visiting Independent Pilots

Pilots wishing to fly at GCV as independent operators must have demonstrated and provide evidence of ICAO AELP 4 or higher credentials.

The Duty Instructor is authorised to restrict the operation of any Visiting Independent Pilots, including solo or cross-country flights, if they believe the student's English proficiency is inadequate for that day.

Evaluating English Language Proficiency at GCV

Student Stage Evaluation

In order to evaluate candidate visiting pilots, instructors must hold a GCV ELP Evaluation endorsement. This is issued by the GCV CFI and requires that the instructor attend an ELP training clinic, run by an ICAO AELP Level 6 trainer. This course will be run by GCV once per year in late September/early October.

Once endorsed, those instructors are able to make assessments of Visiting Student Pilots and Visiting Solo Student Pilots.

Independent Pilot Stage Evaluation

As Visiting Independent Pilots require an ICAO level 4 endorsement, this testing must be undertaken by a CASA accredited AELP Level 6 instructor.