



Ministry of Land,
Infrastructure and Transport

MOLIT launches training program for next generation specialists of EPTA, a gateway test to become pilots

Online application from May 31 & graduates to serve as evaluation panel

- The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister Noh Hyeong-ouk) announced that it will launch an **English Proficiency Test for Aviation (EPTA)* Specialist Training Program** for four weeks from **June 21 to July 16, 2021**.

** **The English Proficiency Test for Aviation, or EPTA, is a test introduced by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and practiced by states with their own versions. It is a test of English proficiency specially designed to apply to pilots, air traffic controllers and radio communication operators of international aircraft.***

- The Korean version of **EPTA has been implemented since 2006** and commissioned to **Korea Transportation Safety Authority (TS)** when computer-based test (CBT) was introduced **in 2019**.
 - It is an English listening and speaking proficiency test in which **test takers are expected to answer various routine and abnormal situations that pilots may experience in the course of performing their duties**. They are graded comprehensively on 6 categories of features—pronunciation, vocabulary, sentence structure, comprehension, delivery and fluency.

○ The grading system ranges from **level 1** to **level 6** and the highest is level 6. In order for pilots and air traffic controllers to engage in international operation, they must obtain **a minimum of level 4 or higher**.

○ It is administered flexibly in consideration of the test demand, and currently being provided four times every Tuesday and Thursday respectively (10 test-takers per session), and on Saturday once a month. **An average of 4,000 people can take the test every year**.

○ In the last three years (2017-2019) **before the COVID-19 pandemic, an average of 3,500 people** took the test, but **the number slightly dropped to around 3,100 right after the disease outbreak** in 2020.

○ **The decrease is only temporary** caused by the slowdown of aviation industry in the aftermath of the pandemic and the **demand for the EPTA is expected to continue to increase in the future**, considering the vaccination progress and social resilience.

□ About **20 test reviewers are active** in Korea, but considering that **the number of test takers is growing by 5%** annually, the demand for **more specialists** to assess and develop new test questions is on the rise.

○ In response to such demand, the MOLIT is set to launch a training program for the first time since its introduction of the test, in an effort to provide **those who in the field of English education and English language evaluation** with aeronautical knowledge **to train them as next generation EPTA specialists**.

□ **The entire curriculum is free of charge**, and the selected individuals will complete a total of 67 hours of training after **4 weeks of online and offline learnings**.

○ **A graduate of the program who meets the panel criteria* will be eligible for TS's EPTA evaluation panel to serve as a member for one year.**

** Individuals who apply for an opening and pass the selection process after obtaining EPTA level 5 or higher only*

□ Applicants can fill out the form on the TS website (www.kotsa.or.kr,) during the period **between May 31 and June 10** and submit it **via email at airtest@kotsa.or.kr**.

The nomination will be shortlisted to **10 individuals**, by a group of **expert reviewers** who will examine the applicants' basic credentials such as work experience and academic background **based on their submitted dossier, preferred qualifications for extra credit** such as nationally certified English test scores (paper screening for the 1st round) followed by a **language proficiency interview** (2nd round).

□ “**The nature of aviation, which is based on English language, places a high importance in verifying the language proficiency of pilots and air traffic controllers to ensure aviation safety,**” said Mr. YU Kyung-soo, Director of aviation safety policy at MOLIT.

“I am looking forward to **many interested applicants in the business of English language who wish to explore the field of aviation,**” he added.

Appendix 1. Required Qualifications and Application Process

☐ Qualifications

EPTA Training Provider		Korea Transportation Safety Authority (TS)	
1 st Paper Screening (*1.5)	Required Qualifications	<p>A. A person who has at least a master's degree in English education or English language evaluation-associated majors;</p> <p>B. A person who has served for at least three years in the last ten years at an institution that provides English education or English language evaluation and has at least a bachelor's degree in majors associated with English education or English language evaluation;</p> <p>C. A person who has served for at least five years in the last ten years at an institution that provides English education or English language evaluation.</p>	
	Preferred Qualifications (Extra points)	Master Degree in Applied Linguistics	10 points
		Over 10 years of experience in English education/English language evaluation	9 points
		At least 3 years of certified English test evaluation/question development experience	8 points
		Master's degree or higher in English education/English language evaluation	7 points
		TESOL (only those with regular degree courses over two semesters)	6 points
		Completion of the English language teaching training course	5 points
		TOEIC 900 and corresponding scores from nationally certified English test, such as TOEFL/Opic; (those within the 2-years validity)	5 points
2 nd Interview (final)	English Interview	<p>Final selection by English interviews for candidates who passed the 1st paper screening</p> <p>* The quota for a single institution will be limited if two or more applicants are from the same organization; and</p> <p>*None may be selected if there are no qualified individuals.</p>	

Application Process

Application period	Paper screening result announcement	Interview	Final Announcement	Training period
May 31 - Jun. 10	Jun. 11 (To be contacted individually)	Jun.16 – Jun.17	Jun.18 (To be contacted individually)	Jun.21 ~ Jul.16
				Off-JT (every Thurs., Friday) Online (throughout period)

Curriculum

- Off-JT for Aviation 101, Air Traffic Flow, Air Traffic Control Standard Phraseology, etc. (40 hrs.) + Online training for aviation laws, search and rescue, accident investigation (27 hrs.) = 67 hours in total

Appendix 2. About EPTA

Level System

Level	Description	Validity	
6	A test taker at this level is able to speak long sentences naturally and effortlessly in English conversation. The highest level of English proficiency close to that of a native speaker.	Permanent	Pass
5	A test taker at this level is able to speak relatively easy and long for familiar topics	6yrs	
4	A test taker at this level is able to speak long and effectively at an appropriate pace, although less fluent. (no problem with aeronautical communication and description of situations)	3yrs	
3	A test taker at this level is able to speak long yet may present inappropriate phrase usage or pauses. He/She may also indicate hesitation in speaking or slowdown of speech to the extent effective communication is interrupted.	Fail to perform int'l aviation work	Fail
2	A test taker at this level has limited proficiency, speaking very short, disconnected, and inaccurately memorized expressions.		
1	A test taker with a more limited proficiency than level 2		

Related Provisions: Article 45 of Aviation Safety Act

<p>Article 45 (Certification of Proficiency in Aviation English)</p> <p>(1) A person who intends to be engaged in any of the following duties shall obtain certification of proficiency in aviation English from the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Controlling the flight of an aircraft operating between at least two countries; 2. Air traffic control of an aircraft operating between at least two countries; 3. Radio communications on an aircraft operating between at least two countries among aeronautical communications referred to in Article 53 of the AirPort Facilities Act.
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Application Fee: 123,000 KRW