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AVIATION ENGLISH FOR CABIN CREW

ESSENTIAL OR NOT

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Everyone who travels with an international airline is able to hear flight attendants and pilots talking at least once. Among flight attendants' responsibilities is a necessity to report pilots about cabin secure and ready for take-off. However, for most passengers the sense of these conversations probably remains unclear. Not less shocking is the number of special code words they use. When working on board, the crew must be clearly familiar with all the peculiarities of the language, and in general, this is not even a feature of work in aviation, it is inherent in any line of job.

It is essential for the cabin crew to communicate clearly within the team and with the passengers in case of an emergency situation. It is important that all instructions have to be precise, straightforward and understood.

Crew members must be able to understand and use aviation English to effectively perform their duties, including understanding and communicating critical safety information, communicating with flight crew, and responding to emergencies. They must also be able to understand and interpret aviation terminology and phraseology used in routine and non-standard situations. Furthermore, in case of emergency flight attendants have to explain the problem in details, identify the source of it and report to pilots. They have to be advised what to do in any case. To communicate with pilots about the job-related topic the flight attendants have to possess the aviation vocabulary which is different from General English. It is not full of idioms and or phrasal verbs, all terms are unique and are accurate in meaning. It was formed specially to avoid misunderstanding between interlocutors especially in non-routine situations when the requests and instructions have to be short and clear.

Considering this issue more narrowly and in more detail, pronunciation of letters used flight operations is very important. To avoid confusion, the ICAO phonetic alphabet is used. This is sometimes known as the NATO phonetic alphabet. Its peculiarity is that each English letter is given its own code word. Their usage ensures avoiding confusion during radio broadcasting. The 26 code words in the ICAO phonetic alphabet are assigned to the 26 letters of the English alphabet. The alphabet is used to spell parts of a message containing letters and numbers to avoid confusion, because many letters sound similar, such as "n" and "m" or "f" and "s". If we consider this question in general, the vocabulary of the crew can be divided into three large groups: passenger-based vocabulary, common words used while flying and vocabulary to use in emergencies.

Pilots, air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators involved in international operations are required to follow a set of standards and regulations established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Concerning their language proficiency, they must have level 4 with accordance ICAO scale [2].

Conclusion

Aviation English for the crew is important and required to be learned, starting from being able to communicate with passengers, reaching important exams to improve your career. Do not forget that the course includes not only the conversational level of knowledge, but also many professional subtleties, such as the ICAO alphabet and features of communication during emergencies. Therefore, based on the material described above, we can conclude that without a sufficient level of aviation English, work becomes impossible.

References:

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