

NATO STANDARDIZATION AGREEMENT LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVELS (STANAG 6001)

AIM

The aim of this agreement is to provide NATO Forces with a table describing language proficiency levels.

1. AGREEMENT

Participating nations agree to adopt the table of language proficiency levels for the purpose of :

- a. Meeting language requirements for international staff appointments.
- b. Comparing national standards through a standardised table.
- c. Recording and reporting, in international correspondence, measures of language proficiency (if necessary by conversion from national standards).

2. GENERAL

The descriptions give detailed definitions of the proficiency levels in the commonly recognised language skills: oral proficiency (listening and speaking) and written proficiency (reading and writing).

3. PROFICIENCY LEVELS

The proficiency skills are broken down into six levels coded 0 through 5. In general terms, skills may be defined as follows:

Level 0		No practical proficiency
Level 1	-	Elementary
Level 2	-	Fair (Limited working)
Level 3	-	Good (Minimum professional)
Level 4	-	Very good (Full professional)
Level 5	-	Excellent (Native/bilingual)

Language proficiency will be recorded with a profile of 4 digits indicating the specific skills in the following order:

Skill A	Listening
Skill B	Speaking
Skill C	Reading
Skill D)	Writing

This number of 4 digits will be preceded by the code letters **SLP** (*PLS in French*) which is to indicate that the profile shown is the Standardised (S) Language (L) Profile P). (Example: SLP 3321 means level 3 in listening, level 3 in speaking, level 2 in reading and level 1 in writing).

Extract from a NATO (unclassified) document. - [link to original document](#)