

Working agreements concerning the application of the Language tests standard Code of Conduct HE 2024 and the Process description assessment of language tests 2024

Date of adoption October 1, 2025
Valid until a new version of the HO Code of Conduct

The Language Assessment Committee and Hobéon¹ have evaluated the last two periods during which applications could be submitted to have language tests included in the language table. Eight applications were processed, of which six were approved and two were rejected. The purpose of this interim evaluation was to adjust the procedure where necessary and to identify areas for improvement. This has led to a number of working agreements, which are set out in this document.

These agreements deviate in some respects from the provisions of the Language test standard Code of Conduct HE 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the standard) and the Process description assessment of language tests 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the process description). The reason for this is that a number of elements included in the standard and process description were impractical.

An evaluation of the text and implementation of the code of conduct will take place in 2026-2027. This will include the procedure for language tests. The working agreements will be part of the evaluation.

1. Validating authorities - paragraph 2 of the process description
Paragraph 2 of the process description stipulates that a language test provider may propose a validating authority other than Hobéon, provided that this validating authority meets the conditions set out in the process description. The Assessment Committee determines whether the conditions are met.

From now on, only Hobéon may be used. Based on its experience and the conditions set out in section 2, the Assessment Committee considers itself insufficiently equipped to assess whether another validating authority is suitable to carry out the validation.

2. Application period - paragraph 3 of the process description
Paragraph 3 of the process description stipulates that applications can be submitted annually from October first to April first.

From now on, the period during which language test providers can submit applications will be open from October 1 to February 1. This period has been shortened because the procedure takes more time than anticipated. In addition, education institutions prefer that a new version of the language test appendix is adopted before the summer period, so that the institutions can adjust their information provision in a timely manner.

3. Information on the certificate - paragraph 4 standard (standard element 4.20)
Standard element 4.20, as included in the standard, specifies which information must be stated on the certificate.

From now on, deviations from this are permitted in the following areas: c place of birth, e field of expertise, l period of validity, and m signature of the awarding organization. It has become apparent that these requirements are not in line with the common practice of language test providers. The requirements set out in standard element 4.20 are intended to help prevent fraud. The validating authority will assess whether the standard has been met from this perspective.

¹ Hobéon has drawn up the standard and process description. In addition, the organization acts as validating authority