

WORKSHOP C: Remote vs in-person STANAG 6001 speaking tests

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This workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to share their experiences and lessons learned in administering remote STANAG 6001 speaking tests during the pandemic.

According to Isbell and Kremmel, language testing, like everything else, suffered unprecedented disruption as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and testers have had to rethink their activities dramatically, be it the simple logistical challenges of the testing room to protect candidates and examiners alike, or the more problematic issues of moving to online testing (Isbell & Kremmel, 2020).

Whereas we hope that we will not find ourselves in such dire circumstances in the future, we should take a proactive approach going forward and learn from our previous experiences in order to be prepared for the future.

During the group work activity, participants were asked to discuss and draw up a list of benefits and concerns related to doing speaking tests remotely. It was concluded that remote speaking tests, if administered under controlled conditions, could serve as a practical and cost-effective alternative to in-person tests also under normal circumstances. However, test developers must ensure that the validity of test scores will not be compromised by the use of remote speaking tests and that the internet-delivered test will not place undue burden on and will not disadvantage any test takers.

Based on our discussion, a set of recommendations for conducting remote speaking tests will be compiled.

References

Bullock, N. (2021, April 30) *Redressing the balance post-Covid – the challenges for the workplace language proficiency assessment: a case study in the aviation environment* [presentation] ALTE 1st International Digital Symposium

ILTA Guidelines for Practice English (2020)

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