

Steve HEWITT

National Proficiency Test Council

“Proof of ‘Competence’ - Independent Assessment”

NPTC is a nationally accredited awarding body in the UK. They provide competence awards for pesticide application, machinery operation, livestock, horsekeeping, safe use of veterinary medicines, sheep dips, and chainsaws, arboricultural operations, transport of livestock by road and sea, and lastly, transportation of animal by air.

AATA asked NPTC to develop a certificate of competence for transporting animals by air. NPTC agreed to focus on:

- Being species specific
- Welfare of the animal species
- Safety & Security of people (both within and outside the aircraft) and of the aircraft / vehicles / buildings/ etc
- A standard operating procedure for Animal Attendants Transporting Animals by Air

NPTC is an awarding body and is not involved in training. However, training is very important. The NPTC assessment schedule is normally used as the “syllabus” for the training programmes (courses). AATA has agreed to keep a list of approved trainers.

How to be Assessed? Candidates can access the schedule of assessment from NPTC web site www.nptc.org.uk and this will inform the candidates of their training requirements. The candidates who need training will arrange training through an AATA approved trainer (experienced animal attendants may not need formal training and can come forward for assessment immediately). When the candidate is adequately trained and ready for assessment, they must register with the NPTC for assessment. An assessor will be appointed to carry out the assessment at a mutually convenient venue and time. Each assessment will last about 2 hours and will be a practical/oral one to one test (assessor/candidate).

The assessment will cover:

- Animal Welfare of that species
- Safety Regulations / Responsibilities of the attendant
- Legal Requirements / Responsibilities of the attendant
- Essential items of the Attendant’s Equipment (tack bag)
- Knowledge of Documentation / Authorisations required
- Enforcement authorities and their powers
- Transport Container
- Aircraft procedures
- Checking animals to be transported (documentation and fitness)
- Loading and unloading animals
- Causes / signs of stress / ill-health & treatment
- Completing documentation / reporting

Once the candidate has been assessed and passed, a certificate will be issued by NPTC. An ID card will be issued by AATA as “membership” of the professional register. AATA will keep the register available for authorities to prove competence of the handler. Members of the register must be active flying attendants.



Steve HEWITT
National Proficiency Test Council
Senior Technical Officer
National Agricultural Centre
Stonleigh
Kenilworth, Warwickshire
CV8 2LG England, UK
Office: + 44 (0) 24 7685 7300
Fax: + 44 (0) 24 7669 6128
steve@nptc.org.uk
www.nptc.org.uk

Steve Hewitt is the Senior Technical Officer and is responsible for ensuring that NPTC’s technical team develop new qualifications with various industry bodies, and also maintain and update the existing qualifications with industry support. He is also responsible for working with industry representatives to set the standard of assessment and then ensuring that all of the NPTC assessors maintain and assess to this standard.

Steve has been working for NPTC for 6.5 years now and previously came from a farming background, he also worked as a senior lecturer in agricultural colleges for 17 years.