

**Government Decree No. 137/2008 (V. 16.)**

**on the certified examination of foreign language attainment and on the  
nostrification in the Republic of Hungary of language certificates of foreign  
language attainment issued abroad**

The Government, acting in the scope of its duties stipulated by point b) of Article 35. (1) of Act XX of 1949 on the Constitution of the Republic of Hungary, and on the basis of the authorisation stemming from point 6. of Article 153. (1) of Act CXXXIX of 2005 on higher education, creates the following Decree:

*Certified language exams*

**1. § (1)** Certified language exams are exams certifying language competence, that are conducted by organisations endowed with the right of examination and taken according to the rules of an accredited language examination.

(2) Accredited language examination centres are entitled to conduct language examinations that provide a basis for issuing certified language certificates and to issue certified language certificates.

**2. § (1)** Language exams may be taken in natural or artificial, modern or classical languages.

(2) A language exam measures the following skills:

- a) reading comprehension,
- b) listening comprehension,
- c) writing,
- d) speaking,
- e) mediation skill.

(3) A language exam is monolingual if it measures the skills referred to in points a)-d) of section (2) and bilingual if it measures the skills listed under points a)-e) of section (2). A monolingual language exam can be converted into a bilingual one through a complementary exam.

(4) A language exam can be:

a) according to its sort

aa) a general exam if it measures, in all skills, the existence of language attainment necessary for foreign language communication in everyday situations,

ab) a language exam for special purposes if it measures, in all skills, the existence of technical language attainment necessary for foreign language communication in the field of vocational activities;

b) according to its type

ba) oral, if it measures listening comprehension and oral skills,

bb) written, if it measures reading comprehension and writing skill,

bc) complex, if it measures oral and writing skills as well.

(5)<sup>1</sup> A certificate can be issued for an oral exam, for a written exam and for an oral and a written exam taken within the same examination period at the same language examination centre. Language certificates issued for oral and written exams can together be equivalent to language certificates certifying a successful complex language exam independently of the period of time elapsed between the two examinations and also of the language centres conducting the exams. Partial exams taken in the same language can be merged. Types of partial exams that can be merged are listed in *Annex I*. Partial exams of different levels can be merged into a complex exam that will be on the level of the lower level partial exam. Partial exams in the case of language exams for special purposes can only be merged within the

educational areas defined by Act CCIV of 2011 on Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as Act on Higher Education) and if the professional content of the partial exam is the same. Upon request, the Educational Authority (hereinafter referred to as the Authority) issues official certificates on the merging of partial exams. This certificate is valid together with the original partial exam certificates.

(6)<sup>2</sup> Language exams measure all language skills listed in section (2) § 2 comprehensively having regard to section (3) § 2. Language exams may be taken at the following four levels of the six levels recommended by the Common European Framework of Reference (hereinafter referred to as the CEFR) of the Council of Europe:

a) A2 (waystage)

b) B1 (threshold)

c) B2 (vantage)

d) C1 (operational proficiency)

(7)<sup>3</sup> Description of the levels can be found in Appendix 2.

### *Language examination procedure*

**3. § (1)<sup>4</sup>** All persons who have attained the age of 14 in the calendar year of their application can apply for a language exam. Hungarian examinees can apply for any exam in the accredited foreign languages of their choice, non-Hungarian examinees may apply for exams in any accredited foreign languages and in Hungarian language, too. Candidates may submit their application at any accredited language centres having the right to conduct language exams. Exams of specified sort, type and level can be applied for. Applicants can take the exam at any exam sites of the language examination centres that operate in accordance with section (3) § 8.

(2)<sup>5</sup> According to section (1) all languages other than the official language of Hungary are to be regarded as foreign languages.

(3) To take a language exam an examination fee, determined by the language examination centre, is to be paid.

**4. § (1)<sup>6</sup>** Language examinations are held in front of a board consisting of at least two people who are delegated by an accredited language examination centre. Individuals that, according to the Civil Code, are related to the examinee or those who participated in preparing the examinee for the exam shall not be members of the examining board. The examination centres send the test booklets of the written exam to the exam sites on the day the exam is held. Records shall be made about the opening of the safe and closed packages that contain the test booklets: the place and time of the opening and the state of the package (damaged or undamaged) shall be recorded. The language examination centre shall inform the examinee about their result – in e-mail or by post as requested by the examinee - within 30 days after the date of the exam at the latest.

(1a)<sup>7</sup> The oral exam, with the agreement of the examinee, is recorded. Regarding the preservation of the sound recordings the rules determining the preservation of the written tests shall apply. At the language exam the language performance of the examinees shall be assessed by two assessors. The examinee and his/her legal representative may have a look at all the test booklets of the examinee together with the task descriptions and the evaluation guidelines as well as the assessment of the oral exam within fifteen days following the publication of the exam results. The examinee may make a handwritten copy of his/her test papers. Such reproduction must be made in a way that does not make it possible to access the assessors' personal data. The time provided for looking at the test papers and making handwritten copies of them shall not be shorter than forty-five minutes. The opportunity for

viewing the test papers shall be organized in a way that its time precedes the deadline stipulated for the submission of the request for reviews.

(2) The language examination centre, with exception of the case regulated in section (3), shall send the certificates issued by the Authority according to section (4) to the successful examinees within 60 days of the exam event at the latest.

(3)<sup>8</sup> It is possible to submit a request for review regarding the assessment of the exam referring to a violation of the legal regulations or a miscount in the calculation of the scores within 15 days following the publication of the exam results. The head of the language examination centre examines the appeal and if he/she agrees with its content the language examination centre alters its decision. The head of the language examination centre makes his/her decision regarding the appeal, including a detailed professional justification, within 15 days of the day following its receipt and informs the examinee of the decision.

(3a)<sup>9</sup> The examinee may lodge a complaint, referring to a violation of the legal rules or a miscount in the calculation of the scores, within 15 days from his/her notification of the decision made in the case of his/her appeal. The complaint shall be addressed to the Authority and submitted to the language examination centre. The complaint is considered by the Authority.

(3b)<sup>10</sup> In the case of the redress procedures stipulated in sections (3) and (3a) the provisions of the Act on the general rules of administrative action and services shall apply observing that the word appeal should be interpreted as complaint. In the case of an exam deemed successful on the basis of a request for review or a complaint, the examination centre shall send the certificate to the examinee within fifteen days following the date when the decision becomes final.

(4)<sup>11</sup> The language examination centre issues a language exam register about the exam on the electronic interface of the Authority. The examination centre opens the language exam register no later than ten days before the date of the exam. The language centre continuously completes the language exam register with the data related to exam assignment, examiners, assessors and assessment. The language examination centre assigns the examinee to an exam on the 10th day preceding the exam date the latest and simultaneously informs the examinee about it. The electronic language exam register must be closed within 90 days from the date of the exam at the latest. The Authority issues certificates only on the basis of fully completed and orderly language exam registers. If the examinee does not take his/her certificate within a year following its issue, the examination centre destroys the certificate. Upon the request of its holder and on the basis of the language exam register the Authority issues an official duplicate of the language certificate.

#### *Duties of the state related to language examination*

**5. § (1)** The Authority, within its scope related to language examination:

a) elaborates and publishes in the Accreditation Manual the description of documents to be handed in for the purpose of accreditation, along with the methodological guidelines for assessing language competence,

b) annually revises the Manual and modifies it if necessary,

c)<sup>12</sup> considers accreditation applications regarding the establishment of language examination centres, exam sites, language examination systems, the extension of a language examination systems with a new language or level as well as the requests for the renewal of the accreditation,

d)<sup>13</sup> inspects the operation of the examination centres.

(2)<sup>14</sup> The Authority makes first instance decisions concerning accreditation applications, conducts the notification of language certificates attained abroad, keeps a record of the

language exam registers of the language exams which, regarding the data determined by points *b*) and *c*) of Section (2a), qualifies as public registers.

(2a)<sup>15</sup> The language exam register of language examinations include:

*a*) the personal identification data of the examinee;

*b*) the following data related to the language exam:

*ba*) name of the language examination centre,

*bb*) name of the exam site,

*bc*) examination period,

*bd*) name, level and type of the exam (oral or written),

*be*) place and date of the exam,

*bf*) name of the examiners and assessors,

*bg*) result of the exam (successful or unsuccessful),

*bh*) the score achieved at each test,

*bi*) the score achieved at the exam expressed as a percentage of the total score; as well as

*c*) data related to the certificate:

*ca*) the number of the certificate,

*cb*) the status of the certificate: submission, approval, date of sending it to the printing-house and receiving it from there.

(3) The Authority administers the accreditation revenues which are used to cover the expenses of performing its duties related to language examination.

(4) The Authority elaborates and provides the examination centres with the nationally uniform, paper-based and electronic forms of certificates and language exam registers that officially certify successful language exams. The cost of producing the certificates are borne by the language examination centres.

(5) The Authority, with the consent of the National Security Service, designates the printing office that the examination centre can contact to produce the exam certificates.

(6) Upon request the Authority delivers its opinion on issues related to language examination.

(7)<sup>16</sup> The Authority regularly, but at least twice a year, convenes the heads of the accredited language examination centres to hold professional consultations.

(8)<sup>17</sup> The Authority participates in activities whose aim is to maintain and improve the quality of language examination.

**5/A. §<sup>18</sup>** The Authority – and the expert commissioned by it – inspects the examination centres and the exam sites on the basis of its work plan.

(2) During inspection the person carrying out the inspection

*a*) may look at the documents related to the operation of the examination centre and exam site and view the written test papers used at the exams,

*b*) may take part in the exams, and

*c*) may ask the examiners questions.

(3) If, during the inspection, the Authority decides that the accredited examination centre, the whole examination system or a part of it, or the exam site do not comply with the legal regulations and those stipulated in the Accreditation Manual, it asks the examination centre to correct the offence and assigns a deadline to complete that.

(4) The Authority may suspend the accreditation of the examination centre for no more than three months if the examination centre fails to comply with its request before the deadline, if it hinders the inspection procedure or commits a repeated or serious offence.

(5) The Authority revokes the accreditation in the case of a serious and repeated offence that has a direct influence on the results of the exam.

(6) In the resolution concerning suspension or revocation the Authority shall specify the way of solving the financial, legal and organisational questions that become necessary due to the

suspension or revocation. The final decision on the suspension or revocation of an accreditation shall be made public on the website of the Authority.

**6. § (1)**<sup>19</sup> In completing the tasks related to language examination as determined in section (1) § 5, in § 8 and 9, the Language Examination Accreditation Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) has to be designated as expert. The Board consists of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine members who are selected by the Authority through open competition made public via the website of the Authority. The Authority provides information about the details of the competition and the final selection of experts on its website.

(2) The members of the Board shall have a university level teacher's degree in literature attained in Hungary or an MA in foreign language and pedagogy and have at least ten years of experience in the field of language teaching and language examination. The head of the Authority mandates, via competition, the members and the chairman of the Board for a term of three years. After three years the competition has to be repeated. An individual may hold a mandate for a maximum of six years. The head of the Authority can relieve a member or the chairman of the Board of his/her duties if he/she – due to reasons imputable to him/her – fails to fulfil his/her tasks related to membership/chairmanship.

(3) The rules concerning the activities and the remuneration of the Board's members and the chairman are laid down in a rules of procedure approved by the head of the Authority.

**7. §**<sup>20</sup>

*Accreditation of language examination centres and language examination systems*

**8. § (1)**<sup>21</sup> An examination centre can be accredited if

- a) it possesses the necessary facilities to conduct traditional (paper format) or computerized language examinations,
- b) its examination system complies with the accreditation conditions, and
- c) in the case of examining in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, it can prove the employment of at least five, while in the case of other languages a minimum of three people as qualified examiners.

(2) The duties of a language examination centre and the rules governing its operation:

- a) it announces at least one exam per year in all its accredited languages and on all levels;
- b)<sup>22</sup> a test, used unaltered and measuring an individual skill – except for oral skills – can only be used once in a year;
- c)<sup>23</sup> it continuously informs, in printed or electronic form, the examinees about the requirements of the exams and their organisation and publishes a sample test for each language and level on its website;
- d) it continuously improves its language examination system;
- e) it comprehensively documents the events related to the exams, including the administration of the electronic language exam registers and the production of language certificates;
- f) it creates adequate exam conditions for people with disabilities in order to ensure equal opportunities;
- g) it instructs and provides a trainings for its examiners at least once a year;
- h) it regulates the consequences of violating the rules of the exam in its rules of procedure.

(3)<sup>24</sup> The language examination centre may also organise language exams outside the language examination centre. According to Point c) Section (1) § 5, such exam sites have to be involved in an accreditation procedure. In the case of a computerized exam the accreditation procedure also inspects the suitability of the computer system.

**9. § (1)**<sup>25</sup> The accredited language examination system:

- a) measures and separately assesses the four language skills on at least three levels applying a language exam elaborated specifically for the level in question;

- b) documents the internal validity and reliability of its exams at every exam event;
- c) is the intellectual property of the examination centre submitting a request for accreditation, developed independently, original and meets the needs of the target group, and
- d) its evaluation system is in line with the tools of measurement applied.

(2)<sup>26</sup> According to the Accreditation Manual an accredited language examination system can be extended with a new exam language and level.

(3)<sup>27</sup> If the language examination centre intends to modify any element of the language examination system it has to submit a related request to the Authority. If the Authority does not come to a decision within the relevant administration deadline, the client is entitled to exercise the requested rights.

**10. § (1)<sup>28</sup>** Only those people can be employed as examiners at an accredited language centre, who have a university teachers' degree in language and literature, or a BA in language, literature and language teaching, or an MA in foreign language teaching

a) in the language concerned,

aa) attained in Hungary, or

ab) issued in a country that uses the relevant language as an official language and recognised in Hungary, or

c) issued in a country belonging to the European Economic Area and recognised in Hungary,

b) who, following the attainment of the above document, can certify at least three years of experience in language teaching and three years of experience in the field of conducting or developing language exams, and

c) who has participated in the examiners' training course of the given examination system where the familiarisation with the CEFR was an obligatory part of the training.

(2)<sup>29</sup> According to Point c) Section (1) countries of the European Economic Area include the countries of the European Union and other countries participating in the agreement with the European Economic Area.

(3)<sup>30</sup> Unlike the regulations set out in section (1), in the case of languages where there is no language teacher training in Hungary, those people can be examiners who

a) possess a high qualification in pedagogy,

b) possess an advanced level (C1) language certificate in the relevant language, have at least one year of experience in the field of language examination and development and have two years of experience in language teaching,

c) certifies that he/she has participated in the examiners' training course of the given examination system where the familiarisation with the CEFR was an obligatory part of the training.

(4)<sup>31</sup> In the case of language exams for special purposes, unlike the regulations of sections (1) and (3), people can also be examiners who

a) have a vocational diploma appropriate for the language exam for special purposes acknowledged in Hungary and attained in a country using the relevant language as an official language, or

b) have a complex general language certificate recognized in Hungary or an equivalent advanced level general or special purposes language certificate or who can certify a high level of proficiency in the field of the given language for special purposes, and

c) certifies that he/she has participated in the examiners' training course of the given examination system where the familiarisation with the CEFR was an obligatory part of the training.

**11. § (1)<sup>32</sup>** In the course of the accreditation procedure - in the case of the accreditation of both the language examination centre and that of the language examination system – such people can be designated as experts who comply with the rules set out in § 10, who are neither employed nor engaged in any work related situation with the language centre seeking

accreditation, and who did not participate in the elaboration of the language examination system. The experts are selected by the Authority through open competition announced once a year through the website of the Authority. The Authority provides information about the details of the competition and the final selection of experts on its website.

(2) The extension of the language examination system can also be requested in case the examination centre wishes to extend its accredited language exam system with a new language.

(3) In the case of special purpose language exams made obligatory for public and civil servants by legal acts or internal regulations and conducted or coordinated by internal organisational units of ministries, it is only the language examination system and the chosen languages that have to be accredited. These exam sites organise language exams only for those obliged to take them. These special purpose exams are to be regarded as certified language exams for special purposes.

(4)<sup>33</sup> The accreditation of the examination centre is valid for two years and the Authority publishes the final accreditation decision on its website.

(5) The Authority allocates a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 per cent of its annual revenues generated by language examination for next year's tasks related to the development of language teaching and examination.

(6)<sup>34</sup> In the course of the accreditation procedure the Authority makes its decision within thirty days from the day after the reception of the request.

#### *Renewal of Accreditation*

**12. § (1)**<sup>35</sup> The procedure to renew the accreditation begins upon the request of the examination centre. The centre shall attach a copy proving that it has transferred the administration and service fee onto the account of the Authority. The accreditation of the examination centre is extended until the date the final decision is made about the request for the renewal of accreditation.

(2) When considering the request for renewal the Authority checks whether the operation of the examination centre has complied with the legal regulations and the Accreditation Manual. When considering the request the Authority or the expert designated by it

a) may review the operation of the examination centres, the examination systems and the exam sites

b) may look at the documents related to the operation of the examination centre and exam site and view the written test papers used at the exams, and

c) may take part in the exams, and ask the examiners questions.

(3) If the Authority decides that the examination centre and the examination system comply with the legal regulations and those stipulated in the Accreditation Manual, it authorizes the operation of it for another two years.

(4) If, during the procedure, it can be decided that the accredited examination centre, the whole examination system or a part of it, or the exam site do not comply with the legal regulations and those stipulated in the Accreditation Manual, but there is a way to rectify the situation, the Authority asks the examination centre to correct the offence and assigns a deadline to achieve that. If it is not possible to rectify the situation or if the examination centre does not rectify the offence by the given deadline the Authority rejects the request for the renewal of accreditation.

#### *Nostrification of language certificates issued abroad*

**13.** § (1) Certificates of monolingual general language exams and of exams for special purposes issued by foreign language examination centres can be nostrified.

(2)<sup>36</sup>

(3)<sup>37</sup> The Authority, in the framework of its nostrification procedure, nostrifies monolingual foreign language examination certificates issued by foreign examination centres that were taken after the 1st of January 2000 if:

a) the foreign language examination system has an accreditation decision issued in Hungary and the language certificate had been issued in Hungary before the date of the accreditation decision;

b) the foreign language examination system has an accreditation decision issued in Hungary and the petitioner has attained the language certificate to be nostrified abroad;

c) the foreign language examination system does not own an accreditation decision issued in Hungary but the Authority, having examined the requirements of the foreign exam and compared them to the Hungarian system of requirements, determines and, in line with section (4), publishes that the relevant foreign language examination centre's certificate can be nostrified.

(4)<sup>38</sup> The website of the Authority continuously informs the public about the list of those language certificates issued by foreign language centres that can be nostrified.

(5)<sup>39</sup>

(6) The nostrification procedure starts upon a request. The request has to be submitted to the Authority. The request has to refer to the level, sort and type of the language exam that the petitioner wishes to nostrify. If the petitioner intends to nostrify his/her monolingual certificate so that it becomes a bilingual certified language certificate he/she has to pass a complementary exam as described in Section (8).

(7) The following have to be attached to the request:

a) certified copy of the foreign language certificate,

b)<sup>40</sup> certified translation of the foreign language certificate,

c) proof of payment of the nostrification fee onto the bank account of the Authority.

(7a)<sup>41</sup> The Authority, on its website, publishes the list of certificates in the case of which it does not request a certified translation.

(8)<sup>42</sup> In case a complementary exam is prescribed, provision must be made for the deadline for passing the exam and the language centre undertaking the examination.

(9)<sup>43</sup> In its nostrification decision the Authority declares if the foreign language certificate can be regarded as equivalent to a Hungarian certified language certificate concerning its level, sort and type as indicated by the request.

(10) The nostrification decision is valid only together with the original foreign language certificate.

(11) The classification of levels follows the CEFR and is related to the accredited and certified language examinations in Hungary and to their levels.

#### *Documents equivalent to language certificates*

**14.** § (1)<sup>44</sup> Certified degrees attained at foreign education institutions upon completing studies in a foreign language, such as certified foreign secondary school diplomas, diplomas attained at foreign higher education institutions and certified degrees by authorities designated to issue degrees that are nostrified by a Hungarian institution of higher education or by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences are equivalent to advanced level certified, monolingual, complex language examination certificates regarding education in general or, in the case of receiving degrees, regarding the procedure to receive a degree. The foreign diploma issued on the basis

of acknowledged or nostrified vocational qualification, and the foreign diploma attesting a qualification that is recognised as a vocational qualification linked to a secondary education graduation certificate in Hungary are equivalent to advanced level certified language exams for special purposes.

(2) Unlike the rules set out in Section (1), the diploma from a faculty of arts attained at a Hungarian or foreign higher education institution in modern or classical languages, the teacher's and language teacher's degree in modern or classical languages and literature, the teachers' degree with an MA in foreign languages and the teacher's diploma in pedagogy in the field of foreign languages are equivalent to an advanced level certified complex - if attained in Hungary, a bilingual, if issued abroad, a monolingual - general language exam only in relation to the foreign language actually studied. A BA qualification in foreign language, regarding the language indicated in the qualification, is equivalent to a certified complex - if attained in Hungary, a bilingual, if issued abroad, a monolingual - general language exam certificate on the proficiency level determined by the output requirements of the degree.

(3) Certificates and diplomas certifying completed studies at Hungarian higher education institutions majoring as a minority teacher, minority school-teacher or minority kindergarten teacher are equivalent to general, advanced level, certified, complex and bilingual language exams in relation to the language of education of the given institution.

(4) An international baccalaureate attained abroad or in Hungary is equivalent to a general, advanced level, certified, monolingual and complex language exam in relation to the language of education.

(5)<sup>45</sup> In the case of Non-Hungarian citizens the certificate or diploma received after the completion of secondary or higher education studies in a Hungarian education institute in Hungarian language is equivalent to a general, advanced level, certified, monolingual and complex language exam in Hungarian as a foreign language.

(6)<sup>46</sup> Diplomas certifying completed studies in a foreign language at a higher education institution listed in Annex 1 of the Act on Higher Education are equivalent to a general, advanced level, certified, monolingual and complex language exam in relation to the language of education.

(7) In the case of a successfully completed secondary school final exam the result of the foreign language exam – based on Government Decree No. 100/1997 (VI. 13.) - is equivalent to a certified language exam and the certificate issued by the school and certifying the exam result is equivalent to a certified language certificate.

(8) Diplomas and certificates issued upon the completion of a special translators' or special translators' and interpreters' course that complies with the provisions of Decree No. 7/1986 (VI. 26.) of the Minister of Culture on the requirements of the special translator's and interpreter's qualification and also with the provisions of the decrees on vocational training and conducted on the basis of ministerial authorization are, regarding the language studied, equivalent to an advanced level, certified, bilingual, complex language exam for special purposes. MA level translators' and interpreters' diplomas are, regarding the language studied, equivalent to general, advanced level, certified, bilingual and complex language exams.

(9)<sup>47</sup> Certified secondary school diplomas attained at foreign education institutions after completing studies in Hungarian are, regarding the official language of the foreign country concerned, equivalent to a general, intermediate level, certified, monolingual and complex language exam. Studying any general subject for at least two years in a foreign secondary school in the official language of a country concerned is equivalent to – regarding the official language of the related country – a general, advanced level, monolingual and complex language exam.

### *Final provisions*

**15.** § (1) This Decree enters into force on the 30th day after its promulgation on condition that its rules are to be used in connection with requests submitted after its entry into force.

(2)-(3)<sup>48</sup>

(4) This decree shall not affect the validity of the language exam certificates issued before its entry into force.

(5)<sup>49</sup>

(6) Language examination centres accredited or made equivalent on the basis of Government Decree No. 71/1998. (IV. 8.) on the rules of the certified examination of foreign language attainment and on language certificates shall review and adjust their language examination system and operating conditions according to the provisions of this decree by 1st January 2009.

(7) On the 30th day following the decree's entry into force the regulations of Sections (2) and (3) are repealed. On the 91st day following the decree's entry into force the regulations of Section (5) are repealed.

(8)<sup>50</sup> Section (9) § 14 of Government Decree No. 137/2008. (V. 16.) on the certified examination of foreign language attainment and on the nostrification in the Republic of Hungary of language certificates of foreign language attainment issued abroad as amended by Section (3) § 1 of Government Decree No. 260/2012 (IX. 14.) shall, in relation to the admission procedure to higher education, be applied first in the case of the cross semester of 2013.

(9)<sup>51</sup> The accreditation of language examination centres possessing an existing accreditation at the time when Government Decree No. 33/2014, (II. 18) (hereinafter referred to as Amendment) amending Government Decree No. 137/2008. (V. 16.) on the certified examination of foreign language attainment and on the nostrification in the Republic of Hungary of language certificates of foreign language attainment issued abroad enters into force shall terminate on the last day of the 24th month following the entry into force<sup>52</sup> of their accreditation decision or, in case the language examination centre was already under review, on the last day of the 24th month following the decision made in relation to the last review or on the day of the delivery of the final review report but no later than 31st December, 2015.

(10)<sup>53</sup> Section (3) of § 8 of this decree as amended by the Amendment shall not affect the operation of those examination centres in the case of which the examination centre has already been given authorization.

(11)<sup>54</sup> Prior to its entry into force<sup>55</sup> the Amendment shall not affect the validity of the language certificates and the equivalent documents issued on the basis of Decree No. 3/1980. (X. 25) of the Ministry of Education on state language examination certifying foreign language attainment.

(12)<sup>56</sup> Until 27th February 2015, the examination centres, upon the request of the examinee, issue, free of charge, a voucher attached to their language exam certificate that contains the results of their partial exams achieved at each skill. The language examination centre shall inform the examinee on this opportunity.

*Annex 1 to Government Decree No. 137/2008 (V. 16.)*

Types of partial exams that can be merged			Equivalent exam type
General, monolingual, oral	and	general monolingual written	General monolingual complex
General, bilingual, oral	and	general bilingual written	General bilingual complex
General, monolingual, oral	and	general bilingual written	General monolingual complex
general monolingual written	and	General, bilingual, oral	General monolingual complex
General, monolingual, oral	and	Monolingual written for special purposes	General monolingual complex
general monolingual written	and	Monolingual oral for special purposes	General monolingual complex
General, bilingual, oral	and	Bilingual written for special purposes	General bilingual complex
general bilingual written	and	Bilingual oral for special purposes	General bilingual complex
General, monolingual, oral	and	Bilingual written for special purposes	General monolingual complex
general monolingual written	and	Bilingual oral for special purposes	General monolingual complex
General, bilingual, oral	and	Monolingual written for special purposes	General monolingual complex
general bilingual written	and	Monolingual oral for special purposes	General monolingual complex
Monolingual oral for special purposes	and	Monolingual written for special purposes	bilingual complex for special purposes
Bilingual oral for special purposes	and	Bilingual written for special purposes	monolingual complex for special purposes
Monolingual oral for special purposes	and	Bilingual written for special purposes	monolingual complex for special purposes
Monolingual written for special purposes	and	Bilingual oral for special purposes	monolingual complex for special purposes

*Annex 2 to Government Decree No. 137/2008 (V. 16.)<sup>57</sup>*

1. The exam measuring waystage level (A2 level) language competence

1.1. The A2 level language exam shall assess the foreign language proficiency needed to communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and professional matters.

1.2 The exam targets the assessment of the following skills and competences:

*a)* The language user can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (especially when related to very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography or employment). The language user can understand the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.

*b)* The language user is able to have very simple communication in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. He/she cannot usually understand enough to participate in the conversation continuously.

*c)* The language user can understand specific information in short and simple everyday materials (for example notices, brochures or timetable) and can understand short simple personal letters.

*d)* The language user can write short, simple personal letters, notes and messages related to his/her immediate needs.

*e)* The language user is aware of the most basic communication and cultural characteristics of the target-language community that are related topics having immediate relevance to him/her (especially family, local geography or employment).

*f)* In the case of bilingual exams the language user is able to summarize the gist of short and simple texts in Hungarian and is able to communicate the gist of short and simple Hungarian texts in the target language.

2. The exam measuring threshold level (B1 level) language competence

2.1 The B1 level language exam shall assess the foreign language proficiency needed to communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information in everyday life and related to professional matters.

2.2 The exam targets the assessment of the following skills and competences:

*a)* The language user can understand clear standard speech on familiar matters (especially related to family, home, free time and work) when the delivery is relatively slow and clear; minor misunderstandings are quite frequent; problems may appear when the speed of delivery changes.

*b)* The language user reacts to the talk delivered to him/her and does not miss the point of the conversation. The language user is able to express his/her basic needs, however at times he/she talks inaccurately with quite a lot of pauses.

*c)* The language user can understand simple written text because besides his/her active vocabulary he/she has a commensurable passive vocabulary and is aware of the fundamental structures of the target language.

*d)* The language user is able to compose simple text in familiar topics and record it in writing.

*e)* The language user is aware of the most basic communication and cultural characteristics and conventions of the target-language community.

*f)* In the case of bilingual exams the language user is able to translate simple text written in the target language into Hungarian or to translate Hungarian texts relatively accurately into the target language; the latter may contain syntactical, grammatical and lexical mistakes but not a serious misunderstanding.

3. The exam measuring vantage level (B2 level) language competence

3.1. The B2 level language exam shall assess the foreign language proficiency needed to communicate independently in everyday life and in situations related to professional activities.

3.2 The exam targets the assessment of the following skills and competences:

a) The language user can understand the gist and the feature of oral communication, however, there might be irrelevant details that he/she does not comprehend properly; besides frequent topics of discussion he/she is able to apply this skill in relation to topics in his/her field of specialisation.

b) The language user is able to start a continuous, diverse and natural interaction even with native speakers and does not have to search for words; however, he/she avoids the more abstract lexical fields and his/her speech is not idiomatic.

c) The language user can also understand more complex and abstract written texts, there is no serious misunderstanding.

d) The language user is able to produce a clear and detailed text, express his/her opinion, reason in a simple way and analyse texts written about frequent topics and about those that are within his/her field of specialisation; the language produced might contain stylistic errors and the composition may, at times, be erratic.

e) The language user is aware of the most basic communication and cultural characteristics and conventions of the target-language community.

f) In the case of bilingual exams the language user interprets more complex and abstract general and professional texts; his/her translations and summaries into Hungarian show experience and a sense of style; his/her foreign language translations and summaries which, most of the time, have no lexical or grammatical mistakes, might contain stylistic errors and paraphrases substituting what is customarily used.

4. The exam measuring operational proficiency level (C1 level) language competence

4.1. The C1 level language exam shall assess foreign language proficiency needed to use a foreign language safely, applying almost all communication tools generally correctly in everyday and professional situations.

4.2 The exam targets the assessment of the following skills and competences:

a) the language user understands diverse and extended speech as a whole and in detail which assumes the comprehension of implied meaning.

b) the language user speaks fluently, has correct tone and no disturbing accent and his/her intonation is mostly correct; uses the more complicated structural characteristic of the target language and the idiomatic expressions naturally; is able to talk fluently though not entirely professionally on abstract topics.

c) the reading comprehension ability of the language user is convincing even in the case of texts having topics written in diverse content and style; he/she can recognize the relevant elements of style.

d) the language user is able to produce a clear, well-designed and detailed text in relation to general, professional or educational issues which has almost no mistakes and comply with the spirit of the target language.

e) the language user is aware of the language of literature, recognizes the non-standard dialects and is able to keep the linguistic-cultural conventions of the target language.

f) In the case of bilingual exams the language user is able to interpret the information content of the original text completely producing a text with correct style; in the case of translating or summarising a text in foreign language he/she is able to produce a text according to the linguistic-cultural norms of the target language using clear and fluent style.

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<sup>1</sup> Section (5) § 2 is amended by § 623 of Gov. Decree No. 182/2009. (IX. 10) and by Point a) of § 14 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).

<sup>2</sup> Section (6) § 2 is determined by §1 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).

<sup>3</sup> Section (7) was included into the text by 33/2014 (II. 18). 1 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).

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- <sup>4</sup> Section (1) § 3 is amended by § 623. Of Gov. Decree No. 182/2009 (IX. 10.). On the basis of Section (1) § 687 this provision shall be applied in relation to procedures started after 1 October 2009 or in procedure that are repeated.
- <sup>5</sup> Section (2) § 3. Is amended by Point b) § 14 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>6</sup> Section (1) § 4 is determined by Section (1) § 2 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>7</sup> Section (1a) § 4 is included into the text by Section (1) § 2 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>8</sup> Section (3) § 4 is determined by Section (2) § 2 of Gov. Decree No. 33\*2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>9</sup> Section (3a) § 4 was included into the text by Section (2) § 2 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>10</sup> Section (3b) § 4 was included into the text by Section (2) § 2 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>11</sup> Section (4) § 4 is determined by Section (2) § 14 of Gov. Decree No. 39/2011) II. 27.)
- <sup>12</sup> Section (1) § 5 is determined by Section (1) § 3 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>13</sup> Section (1) § 5 was included into the text by Section (1) § 3 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>14</sup> Section (2) § 5 is determined by Section (2) § 3 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>15</sup> Section (2a) § 5 was included into the text by Section (2) § 3 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>16</sup> Section (7) § 5 is determined by Section (3) § 3 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>17</sup> Section (8) § 5 was included into the text by Section (3) § 3 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>18</sup> § 5/A was included into the text by Section (2) § 3 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>19</sup> Section (1) § 6 is determined by § 5 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>20</sup> § 7 and the preceding subtitle were repealed by § 15 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18.).
- <sup>21</sup> Section (1) § 8 is determined by Section (1) § 6 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>22</sup> Point b) Section (2) § 8 is determined by Section (2) § 6 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>23</sup> Point c) Section (2) § 8 is determined by Section (2) § 6 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>24</sup> Section (3) § 8 is determined by Section (3) § 6 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>25</sup> Section (1) § 9 is determined by § 7 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>26</sup> Section (2) § 9 is determined by § 7 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>27</sup> Section (3) § 9 is determined by Section (2) § 622 of Gov. Decree No. 182/2009 (IX. 10). On the basis of Section (1) § 687 of this amendment the provision shall be applied in relation to procedures started after 1 October 2009 or in procedure that are repeated.
- <sup>28</sup> Section (1) § 10 is determined by Section (1) § 8 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>29</sup> Section (2) § 10 is determined by § 622 of Gov. Decree No. 182/2009 (IX. 10). On the basis of Section (1) § 687 of this amendment the provision shall be applied in relation to procedures started after 1 October 2009 or in procedure that are repeated.
- <sup>30</sup> Section (3) § 10 is determined by Section (2) § 8 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>31</sup> Section (4) § 10 is determined by Section (2) § 8 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>32</sup> Section (1) § 11 is determined by Section (1) § 9 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>33</sup> Section (4) § 11 is determined by Section (2) § 9 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>34</sup> Section (6) § 11 was included into the text by Section (3) § 9 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>35</sup> The subtitle preceding § 12 was included into the text by § 10 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18). § 12 is determined by § 10 of this amendment.
- <sup>36</sup> Section (2) § 13 was repealed by Point a) § 17 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18.).
- <sup>37</sup> Section (3) § 13 is determined by Section (1) § 15 of Gov. Decree No. 39/2011 (III. 27.).
- <sup>38</sup> Section (4) § 13 is determined by Section (1) § 15 of Gov. Decree No. 39/2011 (III. 27.).
- <sup>39</sup> Section (5) § 13 was repealed by Point a) § 17 of Gov. Decree No. 39/2011 (III. 27.).
- <sup>40</sup> Point b) Section (7) §13 is amended by Point b) § 17 of Gov. Decree No. 39/2011 (III. 27.).
- <sup>41</sup> Section (7a) § 13 was included into the text by Section (2) § 15 of Gov. Decree No. 39/2011 (III. 27.), its text is determined by § 11 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).
- <sup>42</sup> Section (8) §13 is amended by Point c) § 17 of Gov. Decree No. 39/2011 (III. 27.).
- <sup>43</sup> Section (9) §13 is amended by § 623 of Gov. Decree No. 182/2009 (IX. 10). On the basis of Section (1) § 687 of this amendment the provision shall be applied in relation to procedures started after 1 October 2009 or in procedure that are repeated.
- <sup>44</sup> Section (1) § 14 is determined by Section (1) § 1 of Gov. Decree No. 260/2012 (IX. 14.).
- <sup>45</sup> Section (5) § 14 is determined by Section (2) § 1 of Gov. Decree No. 260/2012 (IX. 14.).
- <sup>46</sup> Section (6) § 14 is amended by Point c) § 14 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18.).
- <sup>47</sup> Section (9) § 14 was included into the text by Section (3) § 1 of Gov. Decree No. 260/2012 (IX. 14.).
- <sup>48</sup> Section (2)-(3) § 15 was repealed by Section (7) 15 of the decree.
- <sup>49</sup> Section (5) § 15 was repealed by Section (7) 15 of the decree

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<sup>50</sup> Section (8) § 15 was included into the text by § 2 of Gov. Decree No. 260/2012 (IX. 14.).

<sup>51</sup> Section (9) § 15 was included into the text by § 12 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).

<sup>52</sup> The date of entry into force: 20 March 2014

<sup>53</sup> Section (10) § 15 was included into the text by § 12 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).

<sup>54</sup> Section (11) § 15 was included into the text by § 12 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).

<sup>55</sup> The date of entry into force: 20 March 2014

<sup>56</sup> Section (12) § 15 was included into the text by § 12 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).

<sup>57</sup> Appendix 2 is determined by § 13 of Gov. Decree No. 33/2014 (II. 18).