The Rules made under the Real Estate Services Act, S.B.C. 2004, c. 42, are amended by adding the following section:

English language proficiency requirement

2-6.1 (1) In addition to any other requirements set out in section 10 of the Act and established by these rules, an applicant for a new licence who is an individual must achieve a level 7 or higher on each of the parts applicable to reading, writing, speaking and listening, as tested by the Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program—General Test.

(2) An applicant is deemed to have satisfied the requirement to demonstrate English language proficiency under subsection (1) if the applicant

(a) has graduated with a bachelor degree or higher from a degree program at an accredited university, college or technical institute where English is the primary language of instruction, or

(b) has been licensed to engage in real estate services in another Canadian jurisdiction with an English language proficiency requirement after satisfying that jurisdiction’s requirement for English language proficiency.

Superintendent’s Comments:

This amendment creates a new section that incorporates the current English language proficiency requirement for new applicants into the Rules. These changes were announced by the Real Estate Council on July 21, 2017 and came into effect on September 1, 2017. More information on the English language proficiency requirement is available on the Council’s website at: https://www.recbc.ca/2017/07/council-updates-language-proficiency-requirements-for-new-licence-applicants/