



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The First Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group
(VOLCEX/SG/1)**

Manila, Philippines, 27-29 May 2015

Agenda Item 3: Review Background Information

OUTCOMES FROM OTHER ICAO VOLCANIC ASH EXERCISES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of outcomes from other ICAO volcanic ash exercises.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO European and North Atlantic Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group (EUR/NAT VOLCEX/SG) was established in 2008 and has since been organizing and conducting volcanic ash exercises annually or bi-annually in the EUR and NAT Regions to demonstrate volcanic activity alerting, AIS and MET message routing, volcanic ash dispersion forecasts, air traffic control, air traffic flow and capacity management, and aircraft operator response.

1.2 The ICAO EUR (EAST) VOLCEX/SG, established in 2012, has organized and conducted volcanic ash exercises in the far east of the Russian Federation in 2013, 2014 and 2015 in order to validate and improve the common volcanic ash contingency plan and procedures for the EUR and NAT Regions.

1.3 This paper provides an overview of some of the outcomes from the ICAO volcanic ash exercises conducted by the EUR Region.

2. DISCUSSION

VOLKAM13

2.1 A summary of outcomes and recommendations from the first ICAO volcanic ash exercise in Kamchatka, VOLKAM13, includes the following:

- Developing LOA/s (especially for contingency reroute situations) between adjacent FIRs and/or ACCs;
- Enhancing procedures for communications; using various methods and considering the various participants (ATM Centres, ACCs, etc...);
- Clarifying procedures between ATS Providers and operators for reroutes and associated ACC handover coordination for both tactical (en-route) and pre-flight phases;

- Educating users on the limitations to volcanic ash information provided by the VAACs, which is valid to + 18 hours (in accordance with Annex 3);
- Recommending that States should not declare a danger or restricted area in respect of volcanic ash, except over, and in proximity to, an erupting volcano;
- Considering the necessity for LOA to manage the issuance of NOTAM between adjacent FIRs/ACCs;
- Ensuring expeditious publication of NOTAMs (specifically for volcanic ash);
- Formalizing procedures for teleconferences to facilitate most effective CDM to address reroutes, NOTAMs, operator's needs and safety risk assessment;
- Revising the volcanic ash exercise directive to include VAAC handover procedures;
- Making the EXERCISE VAA and VAG information readily available on the (exercise) website;
- Encouraging the adoption and use of VONA by VOs to communicate information on volcanic activity;
- Clarifying the requirements with respect to the inclusion of volcanic ash forecast in SIGMET information (providing templates);
- Depicting FIR boundaries in VAG information;
- Including the provision of special air-reports on volcanic ash as part of exercises; and
- Compressing the time between the second and third issuance of VAA/VAG in the exercises.

VOLKAM14

2.2 A summary of outcomes and recommendations from the second ICAO volcanic ash exercise in Kamchatka, VOLKAM14, includes the following:

- Establishing contingency procedures / permanent ATS route between neighbouring FIRs;
- Ensuring the timely filing of flight departure information (for flights entering the region of the volcanic ash exercise scenario);
- Formalizing the procedure for adjusting organized airways in case of volcanic ash related contingencies;
- Improving the VAAC handover procedures;
- Increasing the frequency of issuance of VAA/VAG information (to intervals of 3 hours) when necessary to assist airlines with decisions on reroutes;
- Including the VA colour code in VAA in RMK section; referencing information in the VONA;

- Replacing the use of “NO VA EXP” with “NOT AVBL” in first EXERCISE VAA/VAG;
- Distributing special air-reports on volcanic ash received via voice at ACC to MWO as well as VAAC via AFTN;
- Utilizing web-conference technology and a volcanic ash exercise worksheet to more effectively promote common situational awareness; and
- Investigating options to utilize dispersion model output as part of information shared during exercises and in real events.

VOLKAM15

2.3 Outcomes from the third ICAO volcanic ash exercise in Kamchatka, VOLKAM15, are discussed in the presentation APAC VOLCEX/SG/1 - SP/03 by Japan.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
 - b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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